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Weekend

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Iranian anti-riot police use batons on protesters.

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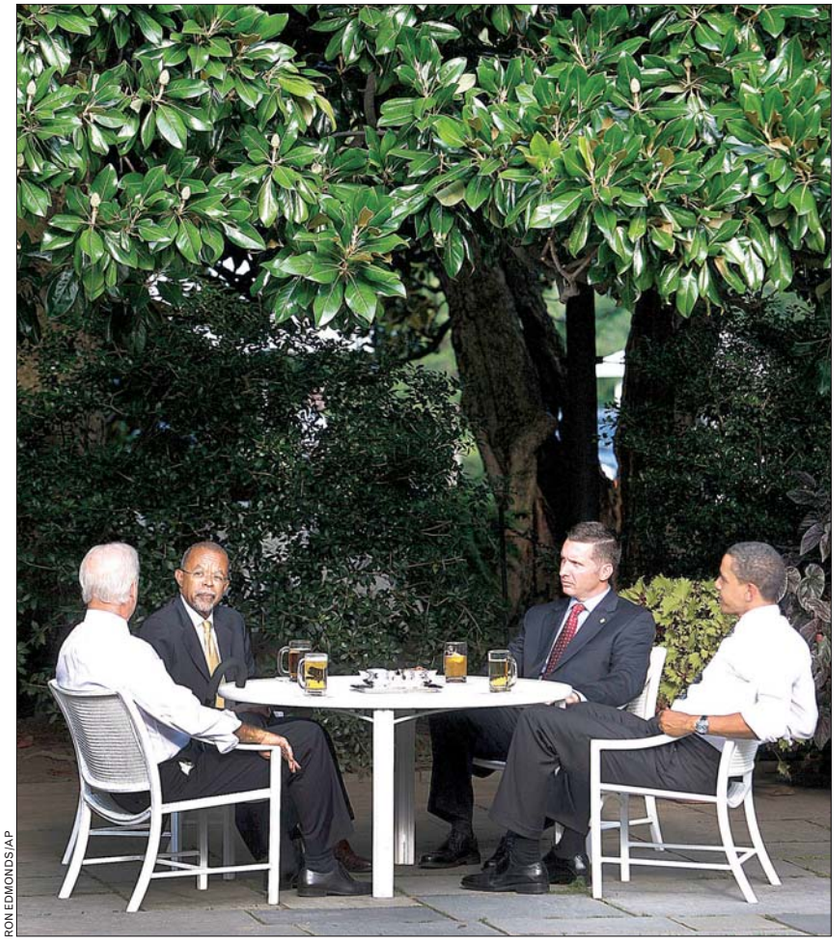

RON EDMONDS/AP

Happy Hour at the White House

BEER. BUDDIES? President Obama and Vice President Biden have a beer with Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr., left, and Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley, right, at the White House on Thursday. Obama downplayed the much-anticipated chat with the black professor and the white police officer who arrested him as nothing more than "an opportunity to listen to each other."

Bonuses Top Bank Earnings

Report details billions in payouts by bailed-out banks

NEW YORK | Citigroup Inc., one of the biggest recipients of U.S. government bailout money, gave employees $5.33 billion in bonuses for 2008, New York's attorney general said Thursday in a report detailing the payouts by nine big banks.

The report from Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office focused on 2008 bonuses paid to the initial nine banks that received loans under the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program last fall.

Cuomo's office found that the companies — which also included Bank of America Corp., Merrill Lynch & Co., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc., — awarded nearly 4,800 million-dollar-plus bonuses, with much of the money going to Wall Street investment bankers.

Citigroup, which is now one-third owned by the U.S. government as a result of the bailout, gave 738 of its employees bonuses of at least $1 million, even after it lost $18.7 billion during the year, Cuomo's office said.

"There is no clear rhyme or reason to the way banks compensate and reward their employees," Cuomo said in the report. (AP)

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eyeopeners

PETS

Dog Demands Retroactive Love

Nine years after vanishing from her Australian family's home, Muffy the dog was found 1,200 miles away, officials said Thursday. Inspectors with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals found the mutt sleeping outside a home on a scrap of cardboard. A microchip in Muffy's neck identified her owners. The new owners said they found the dog about a year ago wandering along a street. (AP)

CAR ACCESSORIES

Hey, Where Can We Buy Some of Those?

A Manatee, Fla., motorist who used fake police lights to get through traffic was busted after an off-duty sheriff's deputy pulled over to get out of the way and became suspicious. The man was arrested and charged with impersonating an officer. He was released Wednesday on bail. (AP)

HARRY CABLUCK/AP

PUNS

That's Fine. Just Don't Overdue It

Texas librarians are baring their skin and revealing their tattoos to raise money to help disaster-damaged libraries. Photos of the librarians and their body art appear in a new calendar sold by the Texas Library Association. The "Tattooed Ladies of TLA" 18-month calendar is a follow-up to the "Men of Texas Libraries" calendar, which raised $9,000. (AP)

VERMIN

"It was unreal. ... It's big enough that it wouldn't come out."

— **AMY DENEGRI** OF ORMAND BEACH, FLA. HER HUSBAND FOUND WHAT MAY BE THE REMAINS OF A RODENT IN A PEPSI CAN. THE FDA IS INVESTIGATING.

SUSPECTS

Drugstore Fresh Out of Britney Spears' 'Curious'

At first, fire officials suspected that carbon monoxide or some other toxic fumes had sickened almost 150 people in Fort Worth, Texas. It turned out that perfume was to blame. Thirty-four people were taken to hospitals after reporting dizziness and shortness of breath Wednesday at a Bank of America call center. An additional 110 were treated at the scene. Fort Worth fire Lt. Kent Worley said the incident started with two people complaining about dizziness after a co-worker sprayed perfume. (AP)

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Judge: Free Teen Gitmo Prisoner

Young detainee to be released from prison 6.5 years after capture

WASHINGTON | A judge ruled Thursday that one of the youngest detainees brought to Guantanamo Bay is being held illegally and must be released — 6½ years after the detainee from Afghanistan says he was tortured into confessing at age 12.

U.S. District Judge Ellen Huvelle's order does not end the case of Mohammed Jawad, however. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Ian Gershengorn told the judge that as the State Department negotiates with the detainee's home country for his return next month, the Justice Department also is pursuing a criminal investigation.

Gershengorn said Attorney General Eric Holder has not yet decided whether to indict Jawad, who allegedly threw a grenade that wounded two U.S. soldiers and their interpreter in December 2002. That means it's possible he could be brought to the United States for a criminal trial. NEDRA PICKLER (AP)

Obama Hopes Beers Quell Uproar

Scholar, police officer join president in drink to racial harmony

WASHINGTON | With mugs of beer and a few minutes of conversation, President Obama tried to pull himself and the nation beyond an uproar over race, sitting on his big back lawn with the black professor and the white policeman whose dispute had ignited a week of fierce debate.

Under the canopy of a magnolia tree Thursday evening, a shirt-sleeved Obama joined the other players in a story that had knocked the White House off message: Harvard professor Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley. Vice President Joe Biden was also with them on a Rose Garden patio.

The men were seen chatting with each other, each with a mug of beer. The media were stationed far away, out of earshot.

Crowley and Gates, in dark suits for the highly anticipated meeting, seemed more formal than Obama and Biden, who had ditched their coats in the early evening. The president nibbled on snacks and was seen laughing at one point. The media were escorted away after roughly two minutes.

A short time earlier at the Oval Office, Obama had done what his aides had been doing for days: lowered expectations.

"I noticed this has been called the 'Beer Summit.' It's a clever term, but this is not a summit, guys," Obama told reporters. "This is three folks having a drink at the end of the day, and, hopefully, giving people an opportunity to listen to each other. And that's really all it is." BEN FELLER (AP)

MARVIN JOSEPH/TWP

The so-called "beer summit" was held far away from reporters at the White House to keep the conversations private Thursday.

WALL STREET A Banner Month The stock market is a day away from locking in its best July in 20 years. Stocks added to an already impressive run Thursday as another round of earnings reports gave investors new reasons to be optimistic about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average rose to its highest level in nearly nine months with a gain of 84 points, and the Nasdaq composite index traded above 2,000 for the first time since October. The Dow is up 8.4 percent this month, its strongest July since 1989. (AP)

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Baby-Theft Suspect Held

Mass. woman accused of taking child from slain mother's womb

CONCORD, N.H. | Friends who watched Julie Corey show off a newborn baby girl wondered how she had been released from the hospital less than a day after giving birth.

Then they heard her former neighbor had been found dead with a baby cut from her womb.

Corey, 35, of Worcester, Mass., was ordered held on $2 million bail in New Hampshire on Thursday, one day after being found with the baby at a homeless shelter.

Appearing in Concord District Court via video from jail, Corey said little during the hearing and did not waive extradition to be brought back to Massachusetts to face kidnapping charges.

Judge Gerard Boyle ordered all police affidavits in the case sealed and scheduled a hearing for Aug. 30.

Corey is accused of kidnapping an infant carried by Darlene Haynes, a mother of three who had been eight months' pregnant and was found dead Monday in her Worcester apartment.

Corey told acquaintances that she delivered her baby sometime late July 23 or early July 24 at an undisclosed hospital, and by later on the 24th was showing off the newborn, police said.

"Some friends became a little concerned about how she got home so early after just giving birth," Worcester Police Sgt. Kerry Hazelhurst said.

CHRIS CHRISTO/THE TELEGRAM & GAZETTE/AP

Workers remove wood Thursday from the closet where Darlene Haynes was found dead in Worcester, Mass. Hayes' baby was discovered with Julie Corey at a shelter.

> "At this point in time, I've got to be grateful to her because she kept the baby alive."
>
> —KARL WHITNEY
> UNCLE OF THE LATE DARLENE HAYES

The girl was in good condition at Speare Memorial Hospital in Plymouth, where she was brought in at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Hospital spokeswoman Michele Hutchins said the baby was expected to be released to Massachusetts child protective services Thursday afternoon.

A spokesman for the victim's family said Thursday it would be unfair to condemn Corey.

"At this point in time, I've got to be grateful to her because she kept the baby alive," said Haynes' uncle, Karl Whitney said.

HOLLY RAMER (AP)

Study: Tide Turning for Fish Stocks

WASHINGTON | Two years after a study warned that overfishing could cause a collapse in the world's seafood stocks by 2048, an update says the tide is turning, at least in some areas.

"Our oceans are not a lost cause," said Boris Worm of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, lead author of both reports.

Ray Hilborn of the University of Washington challenged Worm's original report, leading the two — plus 19 other researchers — to launch the study being published in the the journal Science.

The news isn't all good. Of 10 areas of the world that were studied, significant overfishing continues in three, but steps have been taken to curb excesses in five others, Hilborn and Worm reported.

Hilborn noted that 63 percent of fish stocks remain below desired levels. (AP)

16 **THE NUMBER OF** people who will receive the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom, the White House announced Thursday. The recipients include Sen. Edward Kennedy, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, physicist Stephen Hawking and Dr. Joseph Medicine Crow, 95, the last living Plains American Indian war chief. (AP)

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World

In Brief

PETER MACDIARMID/AP

Replica World War I aircraft fly over England in honor of Henry Allingham.

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND

Hundreds Bid Farewell To World's Oldest Man

Politicians, military chiefs, a large extended family and hundreds of respectful strangers bade farewell Thursday to Henry Allingham, the world's oldest man and one of Britain's last survivors of World War I who died July 18. As Allingham's coffin was carried out of St. Nicholas' Church, Royal Marines buglers sounded the "Last Post," and replica World War I aircraft flew past as the church bell tolled 113 times — once for each year of his life. (AP)

MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA

Official: Leader of Islamist Sect Dies in Police Custody

A governor's spokesman in the Nigerian state of Borno says the leader of the Islamist sect blamed for days of violence has been shot and killed while in police custody. The police commander of Borno said on state radio Thurday that Mohammed Yusuf, leader of the sect sometimes called the Nigerian Taliban, has "died in police custody." He gave no explanation. (AP)

BEIJING

Report: China Performs 13M Abortions Per Year

China performs more abortions than any other country in the world, about 13 million a year, mostly for young single women who aren't using contraception, the official China Daily newspaper reported Thursday in a rare disclosure of family planning statistics. One expert says the figures show many Chinese consider the cheap, widely available procedure an acceptable form of birth control. (AP)

Anger, Tear Gas at Iran Memorial

Thousands clash with police at ceremony for victims of crackdown

TEHRAN, IRAN | Iranian police fired tear gas and beat anti-government protesters with batons to disperse thousands at a graveside memorial Thursday for victims of post-election violence, witnesses and state television said.

Demonstrations that drew thousands more later spread to other parts of Tehran, and more clashes with security forces erupted. Witnesses said police fired tear gas at dozens of demonstrators on Vali Asr Street who set tires and trash cans ablaze in response.

Police barred opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi from joining the crowd around the grave of Neda Agha Soltan, a young woman who was shot to death at a June 20 protest against the disputed presidential election. The 27-year-old music student's dying moments on the pavement were circulated widely on the Web.

AP

Protesters chant at the Behesht-e-Zahra cemetery near Tehran on Thursday. Police fired tear gas at a graveside memorial for victims of the post-election crisis.

"Neda is alive; Ahmadinejad is dead," some of those at the ceremony chanted, referring to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who the opposition claims won the June 12 election by fraud. Witnesses said plainclothes forces charged at them with batons and tear gas, some of them chanting, "Death to those who are against the supreme leader."

An amateur video that purports to show the memorial shows thousands marching through the cemetery, flashing victory signs.

With Thursday's ceremony, the opposition aimed to harness growing anger over abuses in the nearly seven-week-old crackdown and give their movement further momentum in the face of the continuing wave of arrests. NASSER KARIMI (AP)

NETHERLANDS | FIERY FAREWELL

PETER VAN AALST/BERBER VAN BEEK/AP

TORCHED: Flames consume a replica of the 17th-century flagship Prins Willem in Den Helder, Netherlands, on Thursday. Investigators weren't sure what started the blaze on the three-mast ship but said it may have been an electrical short circuit.

British Woman Wins Case Over Assisted Suicide

LONDON | A disabled woman won her legal battle Thursday to force British authorities to say whether her husband would be prosecuted if he helped her commit suicide.

The House of Lords, Britain's highest court, ordered the government to draw up rules for when it will prosecute assisted suicide, which is illegal in the U.K.

Debbie Purdy, who has multiple sclerosis, said the ruling "gives me my life back." The judgment is a defeat for those who argue that Britain's law on assisted suicide, already rarely enforced, risks being further weakened.

Purdy, 46, had argued that if her husband faced prosecution for helping her go abroad to commit suicide, she would go alone. (AP)

DINING **Want Kimchi With That?** The first fast-food joint has opened in North Korea, serving up burgers, fries and beer in Pyongyang, and the locals are lovin' it so much that more are planned for the communist capital. The Samtaesong restaurant, which reportedly opened last month, serves up hamburgers, french fries, waffles and draft beer. Also on the menu: kimchi, or spicy pickled cabbage. Tokyo-based newspaper Choson Sinbo said a hamburger costs $1.70 — more than half the daily income of the average North Korean. (AP)

World

Moldovans Embrace Shift

Pro-Europe parties defeat communists in national elections

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA | It may be the most enigmatic corner of Europe: a hardscrabble communist holdout run by a dour president who keeps a bust of Lenin on his desk.

"Europe's largest illegal duty-free shop," a diplomat once called Moldova, known for rampant trafficking in arms, drugs, cigarettes and sex. But now that pro-Western parties have won national elections, big changes could be in store for the tiny ex-Soviet republic.

On Thursday, a day after their convincing victory in a parliamentary vote that international observers pronounced free of fraud, four center-right opposition parties set about forging a governing alliance to steer the country out of Russia's loose orbit.

They've already pledged more free market reforms, an independent justice system and greater press freedoms.

It's a potentially momentous shift for the last nation in Europe to be run by the Communist Party, which has held power since 2001.

VADIM DENISOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Election workers count ballots at a polling station in Chisinau, Moldova, Thursday. Center-right opposition parties defeated the communists in Wednesday's vote.

This week's poll was unclouded by violence. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said its 300 monitors found no evidence to suggest major fraud.

With almost all the votes counted, the four pro-Europe parties won a combined 53 seats in the 101-member parliament, defeating the communists with 48.

Vlad Filat, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, expressed hope that the communists "will accept defeat and ... allow the winning forces to rule." (AP)

By the numbers, Moldova is a bleak place.

- **Average monthly wage:** $350
- **Population:** 4.1 million
- **Number of citizens who work outside Moldova:** 620,000 officially; unofficially, the real number may be twice as large. Many are young women in the sex trade. (AP)

Blast Kills Two on Spanish Island

Mallorca bombing is blamed on Basque separatist group ETA

PALMA DE MALLORCA, BALEARIC ISLANDS | A powerful bomb on the Spanish resort island of Mallorca killed two police officers in their patrol vehicle Thursday, the second attack blamed on Basque separatist group ETA in two days.

Police found a second bomb under another police jeep later Thursday in the same area and carried out a controlled explosion. Authorities temporarily blocked all outgoing flights and ships from leaving Mallorca as part of a manhunt.

MANU MIELNIEZUK/AP

The wreckage of a car is seen after a bombing on Spain's Mallorca island.

Less than 36 hours earlier, a car bomb destroyed a police barracks in the northern Spanish city of Burgos, injuring about 60 people Wednesday.

If confirmed as ETA attacks, the blasts would conflict with government assertions that the group is seriously weakened after major police crackdowns in Spain and France in recent years.

The 50th anniversary of ETA's founding is Friday, and the group may be trying to show that it was not in danger of breaking up.

The officers killed Thursday were ages 27 and 28. They belonged to the paramilitary Civil Guard, which is chiefly in charge of policing rural areas and guarding official buildings. MANUEL MIELNIEZUK (AP)

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Money

Gaming Companies Eye Price Cuts

Video game business faces tough decision as title sales stay low

Kathleen Byrnes and Justin Choi, a married couple attending medical school at Tulane University, say $40 is just too much to fork over for a Nintendo Wii game they might not enjoy. They haven't bought one since last fall, when they picked up "Star Wars: The Force Unleashed."

Since then? "Nothing really interesting came out," said Byrnes, 23.

Their reluctance helps explain why this is a rough summer for the video game business. More people than ever are playing the games, but it's been awhile since a blockbuster title arrived. Consumers are watching their money more closely in the recession and managing to resist games that can cost as much as $60.

KOJI SASAHARA

Japanese game and console maker Nintendo Co. reported that its net profit tumbled 60.6 percent in the April-June quarter from last year, hurt by a stronger yen.

The trends came into focus Thursday as Sony Corp. and Nintendo Co. each reported console sales are dropping. Sony posted a loss for the April-June quarter, and Nintendo Co. revealed a large drop in its profit.

The Microsoft Corp. division that makes the Xbox 360 said last week it lost money in the last quarter, too.

"The health of the industry is terrible," said Wedbush Morgan analyst Michael Pachter.

For gamers, at least, there's some good news: Console prices will probably come down. Sony's PlayStation 3, the costliest of the bunch, still sells for $400.

Nintendo hasn't lowered the $250 tag on the Wii since its 2006 launch — an extreme rarity for an industry that relies on regular price cuts to broaden its audience.

Pachter thinks each company "has no prayer" of meeting the target without cutting prices to lure buyers. In Nintendo's case, that might mean keeping the Wii at $250 but throwing in more free games. BARBARA ORTUTAY (AP)

Sharp Decrease In Job Losses Is Expected for July

WASHINGTON | Fewer Americans are claiming jobless benefits, leading economists to project that next week's employment report will show a sharp drop in job losses for July compared with June.

Claims for jobless aid, which track layoffs and firings, are trending downward in a modest sign of improvement in the labor market, economists note.

34

The number of jobs, in hundreds of thousands, analysts say will have been lost in July.

That helps explain why analysts are forecasting that a net total of about 340,000 jobs will have been lost in July. This would compare with a net total of 467,000 jobs lost in June and the staggering 741,000 that were lost in January — the most for any month since 1949.

The slowdown in job cuts is a positive sign for the labor market, though most economists still expect the unemployment rate to keep rising into next year. (AP)

OIL Stung at the Pump Oil giants Exxon Mobil and Royal Dutch Shell on Thursday added to the industry's worst midyear showing in years, stung by slumping global energy demand that threatens to further slow exploration and production. For Exxon, the world's biggest publicly traded oil company, a 66 percent profit plunge for the second quarter marked its lowest result in nearly six years. Production fell 6 percent for Shell, Europe's biggest oil company, which promised drastic measures to reverse course. (AP)

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Blaze Guts Arts Patron's Mansion

Low water pressure blamed for inability to keep fire in control

Fire gutted the Chain Bridge Road mansion and extensive art collection of longtime D.C. arts patron Peggy Cooper Cafritz late Wednesday, and officials said low water pressure slowed firefighters' efforts to contain the blaze.

It took almost two hours to find a sustained stream of water strong enough to fight the fire, D.C. fire chief Dennis L. Rubin said. A spokeswoman for the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, however, said the problem stemmed from fire crews' trying to use too many hydrants connected to one small water main, instead of other hydrants available in the neighborhood.

The dispute mirrors one that erupted in 2007, when broken fire hydrants hindered the response to a major blaze at the Georgetown library. That same year, the two agencies traded accusations over alleged water supply problems during a fire that destroyed parts of an Adams Morgan condominium building.

BILL O'LEARY/TWP

Firefighters keep a steady stream of water on the smoldering ruins of Peggy Cooper Cafritz's mansion Thursday. The house contained an extensive art collection.

On Wednesday night, as firefighters unfurled lengths of hose that eventually spanned blocks, flames roared through the mansion's windows and leapt through the roof.

The blaze devoured what Cafritz's nephew called a "museum-quality art collection" by African and African American artists and destroyed a home that had been the site of countless political fundraisers, book parties and receptions, and a refuge for the struggling artists and young people Cafritz routinely took under her wing.

Cafritz, a former president of the D.C. Board of Education, and her family were vacationing Wednesday on Martha's Vineyard, said her nephew, Casey Cooper. She had planned to return to the house Thursday night in time to host a fundraiser for Terri Sewell, who Cooper said is vying to become the first black woman elected to Congress from Cafritz's home state of Alabama. DEBBI WILGOREN, THEOLA LABBÉ-DEBOSE AND CLARENCE WILLIAMS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Bus Driver Phone Use Scrutinized

Operator could lose job pending Metro investigation of photo

A bus driver photographed this week allegedly talking on her cell phone will be identified and terminated if an investigation reveals she violated agency policy, Metro officials said Thursday.

Metro General Manager John B. Catoe Jr. said during an interview on WTOP radio that he learned of a customer complaint about the incident on Wednesday. He was responding to a question about a photograph published Thursday on the blog Unsuck DC Metro.

An anonymous rider, who gave his name as Brian, wrote to the blog that he was riding the 63 bus from Takoma on Tuesday morning when the driver got off to take a phone call at a stop near the Georgia Ave.-Petworth Metro station. After more than three minutes, the post said, a passenger yelled at the driver to get back on the bus and keep driving. She allegedly returned to her seat and "drove several hundred feet before ending her call," the blog post said. JAMES HOHMANN (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Lotteries

Thursday, July 30

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	2-3-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	9-5-2
Mid-day DC 4	6-4-8-6
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	3-6-1-1
D.C. Five (Wed.)	6-1-5-8
Daily 6 (Wed.)	6-21-24-28-32-38 (33)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	16-26-27-33-39 (4)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	4-6-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	8-6-0
Mid-day Pick 4	0-5-2-3
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	9-1-7-3
Match 5 (Wed.)	6-8-18-33-37(35)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	5-7-16-21-24-34

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	9-5-0
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	1-9-4
Mid-day Pick 4	1-1-4-4
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-0-3-7
Mid-day Cash 5	15-16-18-26-28
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	6-13-15-25-28
Win For Life (Wed.)	2-9-18-29-30-34 (7)

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	2-5-38-43-59 (8)
Power Play	2X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

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sports

Ex-Red Sox teammates Manny Ramirez, David Ortiz on doping list | 17

tv lineup

FRANCOIS-XAVIER MARIT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Michael Phelps' loss this week should help viewership at the worlds in Rome.

friday

7 P.M. The Washington Nationals head to Pittsburgh to face a depleted Pirates team, which traded away its starting middle infield for prospects on Wednesday. MASN2

7 P.M. The Baltimore Orioles hope to improve upon their 2-8 record against the Boston Red Sox this season when the two teams square off in Baltimore. MASN

saturday

NOON Michael Phelps is human after all. He will try to avenge his recent loss at the world championships in Rome. NBC

4 P.M. The Chicago White Sox host the New York Yankees, who were 11-2 since the All-Star break heading into Thursday. FOX

4:30 P.M. The NASCAR Nationwide Series heads to Iowa for the U.S. Cellular 250. ESPN

sunday

2 P.M. The NASCAR Sprint Cup zooms into Long Pond for the Pennsylvania 500. ESPN

3 P.M. After missing the cut at the British Open, Tiger Woods hopes to rebound in the final round of the Buick Open. CBS

8 P.M. The NL-best Los Angeles Dodgers travel to Atlanta, where the Braves have been surging into contention for the wild card. ESPN

UNDER PRESSURE

It's a do-or-die season for Redskins starting quarterback Jason Campbell

REDSKINS | Stats are great. Wins are better. And for three weeks in April, it seemed like Jason Campbell hadn't accrued enough of either to stay in town.

But the Redskins didn't pull off a trade to get Southern Cal star Mark Sanchez at the top of the draft. They couldn't make a deal for disgruntled Denver quarterback Jay Cutler, either. And after a clearing-the-air meeting this spring with the front office and owner Daniel Snyder, Campbell remained the undisputed starter when training camp opened Thursday.

We know Campbell can throw the ball a mile, that he can manage a game reasonably well and that he comes off in the press as an all-around nice guy. Yet, it's easy to assume none of that will matter if he doesn't get the Redskins to the playoffs. Campbell is in the last year of his contract, and Snyder hasn't exactly been pushing him to sign a new deal.

To underline the point: The first question at Jim Zorn's pre-camp presser was whether the Redskins were eyeing recently reinstated quarterback Michael Vick. "I think all of the stuff that happened in the off-season motivated [Campbell] to work hard," Zorn said. "It kind of set the stage for him to be real enthusiastic about 2009 and what he wants to accomplish."

Whatever Campbell accomplishes will be with an offense that was barely upgraded in the off-season. It will be up to young wide receivers Devin Thomas and Malcolm Kelly to improve their play and a suspect offensive line to protect Campbell. If that happens, the wins, or losses, will likely rest on the quarterback's right shoulder.

"A lot of different things went wrong [in the second half of 2008]," Campbell said during off-season workouts. "We're definitely dramatically improved from this time last season." ERIC BRANDNER

CHRIS MCGRATH/GETTY IMAGES

Jason Campbell is still the Redskins starting quarterback despite an off-season in which the team made two high-profile pushes to find a replacement.

> **"I think all of the stuff that happened in the off-season motivated [Campbell]."**
>
> — REDSKINS COACH JIM ZORN

A TRAIL OF QB FLOPS

Three QBs who were supposed to lead the Redskins franchise:

HEATH SHULER (1994-1996)
The third overall pick in the 1994 draft started just 13 games in D.C.

TRENT GREEN (1997-1998)
A 23-touchdown season in 1998 led to a big contract in St. Louis.

PATRICK RAMSEY (2002-2005)
He did as well as coach Steve Spurrier here. Notice that both are gone.

RESTRAINT **Jon Stewart Sick of Obvious Pun** John Daly insists he's not a beer-swilling, troublemaking guy anymore. Daly said Wednesday an upcoming reality show on the Golf Channel featuring him will provide a glimpse of his new-and-improved boring life. "I'm more laid-back," he told The Associated Press between puffs of a cigarette this week. "It won't have the hustle and bustle [of] the last show." The Golf Channel had a series called "The Daly Planet" in 2006 that showcased his wild life. (AP)

CAMP COUNSELING

The bunk is full at Redskins training camp with veteran campers on the offensive line, a sophomore making a run at backup quarterback and the new kids on defense. It's up to coach Jim Zorn to sort it all out as head counselor at Redskins camp.

OLD LINE

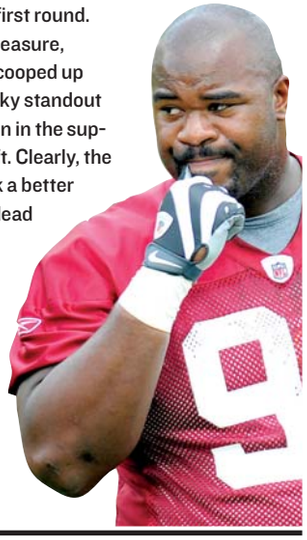
The release of Jon Jansen this off-season likely was the beginning of an overhaul of the Redskins' aging offensive line. The three returning starters — Chris Samuels, Casey Rabach and **RANDY THOMAS** — are on the wrong side of 30, while right tackle Stephen Heyer (25) is young but still an unproven commodity. Derrick Dockery may be the one sure thing to build the line around in the future. This year, though, some of the reserve position battles could be worth watching as Washington seeks depth in case of dreaded injuries.

BACKUP PLAN

If there was anything memorable from last year's preseason, it was the emergence of **COLT BRENNAN** as a cult hero. He had no chance to win the starting job, leaving him free to play with no pressure, and it looked like his great college success would translate to the pros. The former Hawaii star may have something at stake this year: namely, the No. 2 job behind Jason Campbell. Will Brennan's wave catch on again?

SACK RACE

Never mind the fact it was the offense that faltered down the stretch last season. The Redskins went to great efforts to improve their defensive line through free agency and the draft. Washington was so eager to land defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth that the Titans have alleged tampering. The team wasted little time drafting Texas defensive end Brian Orakpo in the first round. As an added measure, Washington scooped up former Kentucky standout Jeremy Jarmon in the supplemental draft. Clearly, the Redskins think a better pass rush will lead to more turnovers. Will the investments pay off?



Zorn Has Second Thoughts on His Approach

Coach takes a more player-friendly attitude after bumpy first year

REDSKINS | To listen to Clinton Portis tell it, there was nearly an uprising of veteran Washington Redskins when rookie coach Jim Zorn imposed a curfew two nights before the team's final game last season.

Portis didn't like being told he had to be in bed by 11 p.m. on a Friday night ahead of what turned out to be a loss at San Francisco.

"Some things, you don't do [to] grown men," Portis said Thursday after the first practice of 2009 training camp. "You don't want people rebelling."

Year 1 of Zorn's life as an NFL head coach certainly hit some bumps, not just on the field — where a 6-2 start was followed by a 2-6 dive to 8-8 — but also away from it, including a public spat with his star running back over playing time and other matters.

By all accounts, Zorn is making adjustments for Year 2, which makes sense, considering he never worked at a position higher than quarterbacks coach before replacing Hall of Fame member Joe Gibbs in Washington.

TRACY A. WOODWARD/AP

Redskins coach Jim Zorn works with the quarterbacks at practice Thursday.

One change Portis and some of the older Redskins love: Zorn decided to allow players who have been in the league at least four years to live at home during training camp.

Players described the move as a sign of trust and respect. And a sign of Zorn's adapting to his job.

"Every year, coaches have to grow within their own program," Zorn said. "Grow with the players they've got. Grow with what you might be able to do — and what you know you can't do."

HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

Swengali

REDSKINS | BY MATT SWENSON

Season Will Be Telling for Zorn

WHO IS THE real Jim Zorn?

Is he the coach who surprised the NFL by leading the Redskins to a 6-2 start last season? Or is he the man who refused to acknowledge his schemes might not suit his roster while Washington floundered to an 8-8 finish?

The answer is probably somewhere in between. Depending on which side Zorn leans toward, he may hear a lot year about being replaced by the likes of Bill Cowher and Mike Shanahan.

Having never been a coordinator on the pro level before, let alone a head coach, Zorn certainly exceeded expectations in his first season in the nation's capital.

> Zorn's frankness is refreshing, if unnerving to stars with sensitive egos.

His frankness is refreshing, if unnerving to stars with sensitive egos such as Clinton Portis.

The stubbornness demonstrated in the late swoon is not uncommon, yet the truly exceptional leader can adjust his principles to fit the players around him.

Perhaps that's what Zorn has done this off-season.

While the front office was busy chasing quarterbacks Jay Cutler and Mark Sanchez, maybe Zorn was adjusting his playbook to accommodate Jason Campbell.

If Campbell flops Zorn is in trouble. Zorn won't survive a losing season here, if the past is a reliable way to gauge Snyder's patience.

It's time for the real Zorn to, please, step up.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

sports

In Brief

DARREN HAUCK/AP

The Brewers' Corey Hart scores off of a wild pitch thrown by Mike MacDougal.

NATIONALS

Late-Inning Woes Continue For Nats Against Brewers

Yovani Gallardo struck out 11 in seven innings and Mike Cameron slid under catcher Wil Nieves' tag for the go-ahead run in the seventh, lifting the Milwaukee Brewers to a 7-3 win over the Washington Nationals on Thursday. Prince Fielder hit his 25th homer, and Craig Counsell added three RBI for the Brewers. Ryan Zimmerman hit a three-run homer for the Nationals in the fourth. (AP)

ORIOLES

Bergesen Carries Orioles Past Royals at Heavy Price

Rookie Brad Bergesen allowed one run in seven innings, then hobbled off the mound after being hit with a line drive on his final pitch, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Kansas City Royals 7-3 Thursday. Bergesen (7-5) was struck in the leg by a sharp grounder off the bat off Billy Butler. Details of the injury were not immediately known. (AP)

BOXING

Brazil Police Release Wife, Say Gatti Killed Himself

Boxer Arturo Gatti's death was ruled a suicide by police Thursday, and a judge ordered the release of his wife, who was once suspected of killing the former champion. Lead investigator Paulo Alberes told The Associated Press that authorities decided Gatti killed himself on July 11 while at a seaside resort in northeastern Brazil. He offered no other details. (AP)

FREAK FEATS

From multiple grand slams to near no-no's, the Nats have a history of great single games

WHEN JOSH WILLINGHAM belted a lifeless slider from Brewers reliever Mark DeFelice over the left-center field wall for his second grand slam in as many innings on Monday, he became one of only 13 players in major-league history to hit two in a game — and he thrust himself immediately into the top spot in multiple Washington Nationals team records.

"That was a special night and one I will never forget," Willingham told reporters after the game. "You don't get the opportunity to do that many times, much less come through in both situations."

In the span of two at-bats, he tied Ryan Zimmerman for most grand slams in a season and a career. He tied the team record for most home runs in consecutive at bats.

His eight RBI put him alone atop the team's single-game list. The previous record was six.

While the Nationals have been in existence only since 2005, there have been a handful of impressive single-game performances to look back on. DEREK TURNER

GETTY IMAGES

"You don't get the opportunity to do that many times, much less come through in both situations."

—JOSH WILLINGHAM, ON HITTING TWO GRAND SLAMS IN ONE GAME

THE CYCLE

WHO: Brad Wilkerson
WHEN: April 6, 2005, against Philadelphia
HOW: The latest incarnation of the Washington Nationals had been in existence for all of two games before it had a player hit for the cycle — an accomplishment some franchises go years without. Wilkerson homered in the third, singled in the fifth, tripled in the seventh and capped his night off with a ground-rule double in the eighth. The victory was the first for a Washington baseball team since 1971.

THE NEAR NO-NO

WHO: Ramon Ortiz
WHEN: Sept. 6, 2006, against St. Louis
HOW: On a Monday afternoon at RFK Stadium, with more than 31,000 fans in the stands, a 33-year-old retread right-hander flirted with one of baseball's most difficult feats. For eight innings, he held the Cardinals without a hit. In the bottom of the eighth, the 175-pound Ortiz stepped to the plate and knocked the only home run of his career. He lost the no-hitter in the ninth, but the Nats won the game.

THE THREE-HOMER GAME

WHO: Alfonso Soriano,
WHEN: Three home runs on April 21, 2006, against Atlanta
HOW: As midnight approached, nearly five hours into a game interrupted by rain, the wet stuff was still falling when Soriano stepped to the plate in the eighth inning. Few fans remained, but those who did saw Soriano's third homer of the game. It capped off a 7-3 victory and began the city's brief but intense love affair with the slugger who hit 46 home runs in his only season with the Nationals.

Report: Ortiz, Ramirez Failed Doping Test

Teammates who led Red Sox to two titles on infamous '03 list

BASEBALL | David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez, the sluggers who led Boston to a pair of World Series championships, were among the more than 100 Major League Baseball players who tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in 2003, according to a report in the New York Times.

The article posted on the newspaper's Web site Thursday cited lawyers involved in pending litigation over the testing results who spoke anonymously because the information is under seal by a court order.

Ortiz declined comment to the paper before the Red Sox played Oakland. The popular-but-slumping Big Papi had not been previously linked to positive tests.

Hours after the report was made, David Ortiz hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning, and the Boston Red Sox rallied to beat the Oakland Athletics 8-5.

MICHAEL DWYER/AP

David Ortiz, left, and Manny Ramirez powered Boston to two World Series.

Ramirez, now with the Los Angeles Dodgers, recently served a 50-game suspension for violating baseball's drug policy.

Major League Baseball declined to comment on the Times' report, telling The Associated Press it didn't have the list of the 104 players who tested positive six years ago.

The results from the 2003 tests were supposed to remain anonymous, but they later were seized by federal agents. (AP)

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Newest Converts: As more condos turn into rentals, buyers face unexpected hurdles E2

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New Leases on Luxury

Buyers and renters find silver linings in condos that become apartment buildings

Two years ago, flipping real estate was considered a viable career path. Snatch up a property, add a couple upgrades (or not), and put it back on the market for a quick buck.

With dozens of condominium developments becoming rentals, the condo market is less saturated.

Today, another type of flipping has gained popularity: turning condominium developments into apartment buildings. The D.C. region is littered with would-be condo projects converted into rental units as the housing bubble popped, subprime mortgages rocked the industry and developers failed to secure contracts.

But there's a perk for renters: High-level fixtures and amenities once reserved for home owners now are available in apartments.

At Allegro Apartments, a condo-turned-rental building in Columbia Heights, units have gourmet kitchens with stainless steel sinks and GE appliances, including a top freezer/refrigerator. Nine-foot ceilings and bay windows come standard. The hardwood floors are made of maple, the fixtures include track lighting, and the walls are soundproof.

"[The units are] expensive quality because they were meant to be a condo," said Maj Roembke, the property manager at Allegro with Kettler Management. "You're paying the same amounts you would in another apartment building somewhere else, but you're getting a lot more features."

KEVIN DIETSCH

Michael Hammerstrom, the account executive for Allegro Apartments, stands outside the building, above, which features an enclosed courtyard, right. The building was originally slated to be a condominium development.

COURTESY ALLEGRO APARTMENTS

During preconstruction, units at Allegro were priced at $210,000 for a studio, $300,000 for a one-bedroom unit and $500,000 for a two-bedroom unit. Even though 100 of the building's 297 units were under contract, developer Metro Properties announced in February 2008 it would be switching to rental units when it opened.

"Allegro actually voluntarily shifted early on," Metro Properties President Jeremy Rubenstein said. "We started to have the first real hints of a financial shock and were pretty convinced people were probably going to have difficulty in the end getting financing."

Metro sent signed releases to all of the condo buyers, allowing them the option to stand by their investments or receive their deposit back plus interest, Rubenstein said. Everyone opted to terminate their contracts, he said.

> "You're paying the same amounts you would in another apartment building ... but you're getting a lot more features."
>
> **MAJ ROEMBKE**, ALLEGRO APARTMENTS PROPERTY MANAGER

"If we were going to go forward, we were going to have to reduce the prices substantially, and nobody was going to be happy with that situation," Rubenstein said. "The ability to get financing and to get 300 units closed really looked like it was slipping away as the economic environment got worse and worse."

Allegro Apartments celebrated its grand opening April 22, and 90 leases have been signed on the building, where units rent for $1,525 for a studio to $3,750 for two-level penthouses with terraces.

GETTING SETTLED

The numbers show how overdeveloped the condo market had recently become in Washington: Since the fourth quarter of 2007, 6,924 condo units have been cancelled and 11,237 units have been moved to the apartment pipeline, said William Rich of Delta Associates, a real estate research firm based in Alexandria.

On the flip side, with dozens of condominium developments becoming rentals, the condo market is less saturated and existing units are in higher demand.

Kristen Albert, sales manager at CityVista (CityVistaDC.com) for the Mayhood Company, said the K Street property has seen a "huge increase" in the number of people signing contracts since the beginning of the year.

"You have these people who were ready to buy; they already have their mortgages and rate locks and need to settle immediately," Albert said. "In some cases, they've already sold their house or ended their lease."

One of those buyers was Peter

Bachrach, 30, a public management consultant who originally put down a deposit at the Dumont Condominiums at Fourth Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW. For almost a year after he signed a contract, Bachrach heard rumors about foreclosures but could not reach anyone at the sales office.

"You've invested some serious money and some emotional capital into a place you intend to live in, and you end up in a place where you're not sure what's going to happen," Bachrach. "I've committed myself to doing something both financially and emotionally, and now you're going to take me on this roller coaster I can't get off [of]."

Bachrach's apartment lease was expiring, and without any expected move-in date, he was forced to find temporary housing and sign a pricey month-to-month lease.

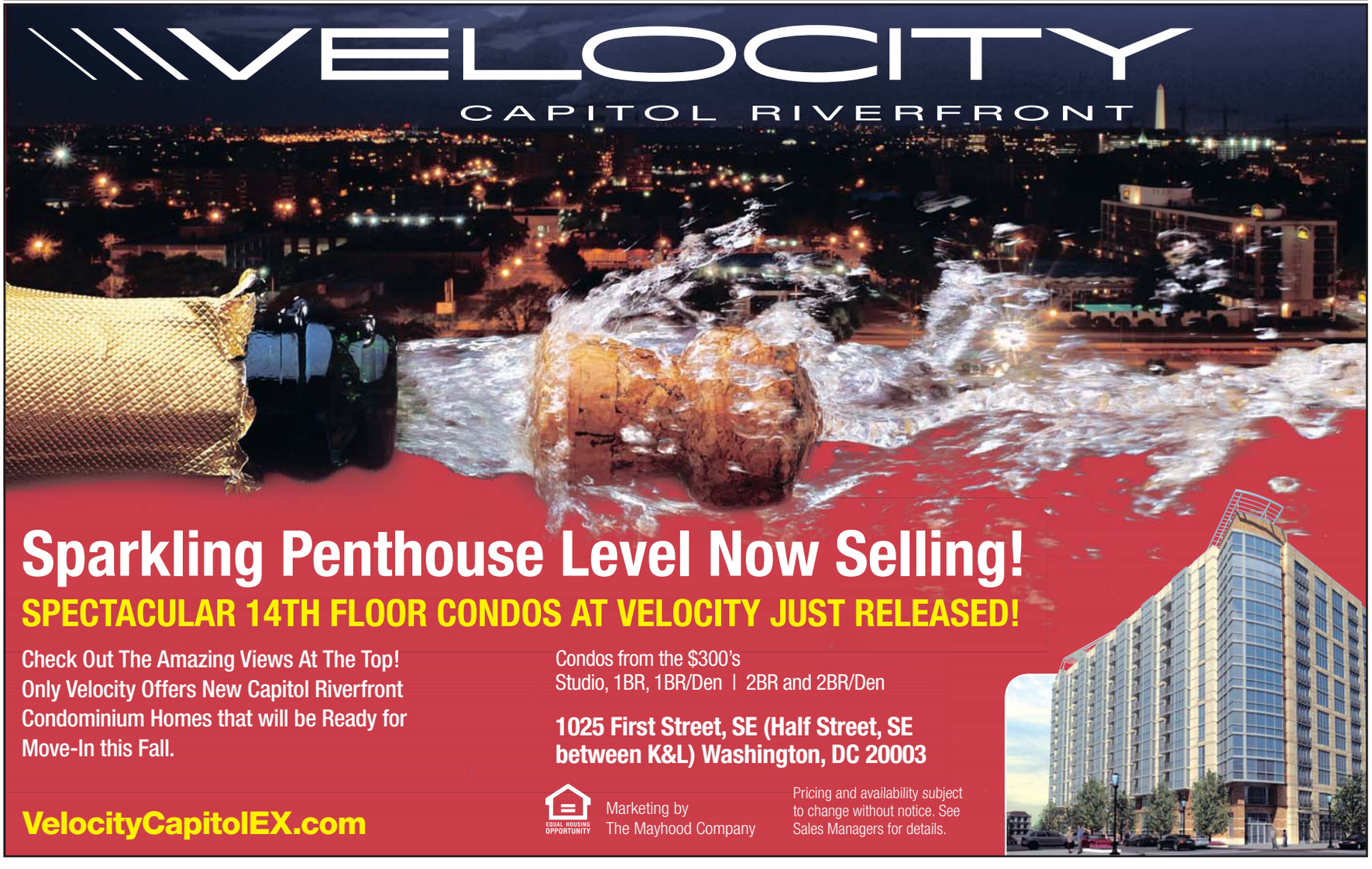
KEVIN DIETSCH

A kitchen/living room in a unit in Allegro Apartments in Columbia Heights includes high-end fixtures and a gourmet kitchen.

Then, on Jan. 9, 2009, Bachrach and other contract holders received a letter from the developer, Broadway Mass Associates. Citing "financial difficulties," Broadway asked whether the purchasers "still wish[ed] to close on the property." Bachrach terminated his contract.

Today, the phone number for the sales office at the Dumont has been disconnected; the latest update to the construction gallery online was May 8, 2008; and sales firm McWilliams Ballard, which had been managing sales of the Dumont, sued Broadway Management on Sept. 30, 2008, in the D.C. District Court over the project.

CONTINUED ON E4



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Condo Converts

CONTINUED FROM E3

Bachrach found a silver lining in the unfortunate situation: He received his original deposit back in full, plus interest. "In this economic environment, it was probably the best investment I could have made at the time. If it had been in the stock market, I'd have lost half the value."

Despite the unstable market and a terminated contract, Bachrach still hoped to buy. He'd been living in D.C. for seven years, watched his rent go up each year, turned 30 and simply wanted a place to call his own.

"I had already put myself in a financial standpoint where I could buy, moved money around; I was ready to sign on the dotted line and write a large check," Bachrach said. He moved into City Vista on April 1.

"I love having my own place, and I like the increased responsibility," he said.

"I love being able to do what I want, when I want and whatever I want to my place as I see fit."

JOSIE ROBERTS

KEVIN DIETSCH

Allegro's common areas, such as the workout room, were built for condo owners.

REBORN AS RENTALS

Many residential buildings are using the condo bust as a selling point to grab renters. The Web site for Monarch Apartments in Alexandria, for instance, touts its "condominium-level finishes." Advertisements for the Tuscany Apartments in Alexandria claim the building offers features that "rival even the finest luxury condominiums." Here are 10 of the latest condo projects to become rentals:

ALLEGRO

3460 14th St. NW, Columbia Heights; 297 units

DEVELOPER: Metro Properties

"D.C.'s best-selling condominium project" announced in February 2008 it was going rental and began leasing in April this year.

PRICE: $1,525-$3,750

ALLEGROSPACES.COM, 866-792-9751

CARMEL VIENNA METRO APARTMENTS

2975 Hunters Branch Road, Fairfax; 245 units

DEVELOPER: Beazer Homes

Originally called "Avera Station" with condo listings as high as $649,000. Carmel Partners bought the completed property in July 2008.

PRICE: $1,705-$2,420.

CARMELVIENNAMETRO.COM, 866-230-8535

HIGHLAND PARK

1400 Irving St. NW; 229 units

DEVELOPER: Donatelli Development

About a quarter of this building sold before it switched to rentals. Buyers could transfer their contracts across the street to sister property Kenyon Square if they were interested.

PRICE: $1,800-$3,900.

HIGHLANDPARKDC.COM, 888-811-5041

10 PIAZZA

2727 S. Quincy St., Shirlington; 245 units

DEVELOPER: Ed Peete Company

Units went on the market from $370,000 to about $1 million for a three-bedroom penthouse suite. Windsor Communities manages the property.

PRICE: $1,750-$2,500

HTTP://TINYURL.COM/M78SU6

MONARCH

525 N. Fayette St., Alexandria; 168 units

DEVELOPER: Diamond Properties

Condo sales began in July 2005 with one-bedroom units priced at $300,000 and two-bedroom units in the upper-$500,000s. Monarch switched to rental in January 2008, having sold only 28 units. The developer's president said another 79 potential buyers simply walked away.

PRICE: $1,575 to $3,700

MONARCHAPT.COM, 866-580-6202

ONYX ON FIRST

1100 First St. SE; 266 units

DEVELOPER: Faison

The property switched to apartments before construction completed, but it kept its expensive finishes. Residents first began to move in on Sept. 27, 2008; the property's grand opening was in June.

PRICE: $1,600-$2,900

ONYXAPTS.COM, 866-876-5119

PALATINE

1301 N. Troy St., Arlington; 262 units

DEVELOPER: Monument Realty

The Palatine had been originally slated for a March 2008 delivery as homes and condos.

PRICE: $1,790-$5,155.

THEPALATINEAPTS.COM, 703-312-0693

THE TUSCANY

260 Yoakum Parkway, Alexandria; 104 units

DEVELOPER: Bozzuto

The building shut down its sales office in October 2006 and began marketing its "apartment homes" as rentals shortly afterward.

PRICE: $1,825-$2,500

THETUSCANYAPTS.COM, 877-297-1839

ZOSO FLATS

1025 N. Fillmore St. Arlington; 114 units

DEVELOPER: Ed Peete Company

Originally developed as condominiums, like most of Peete's projects, the building began leasing in July 2008 through Simpson Housing.

PRICE: $1,960-$3,450

ZOSOFLATS.COM, 866-921-6757

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PRICE POINT COMPARING REAL ESTATE SALES IN AND AROUND THE DISTRICT $299,000 to $325,000

COURTESY THE MADELEINE

Petworth

CONDO: The Madeleine
3917 7th St. NW, #5

$299,000 Three blocks from the Georgia Ave.-Petworth Metro stop on a residential strip bookended by churches, two once-vacant 1910-built matching brick stand-alones have been gutted, revamped and repainted cheery seafoam green. Now they each house five identical condos. This top-floor, 800-square-foot unit squeezes in two comfortably sized bedrooms, two bathrooms, minimal closet space and a metal balcony with steps that lead down to a locked gate and parking ($10,000 per space) off the back alley. The comfortable master suite has recessed lighting and a Jacuzzi tub, and its large street-facing windows let residents keep an eye on neighborly happenings. Ten-foot ceilings maintain an airy feel; the L-shaped kitchen can fit a four-person dining table but spills into the teeny living room. Stained glass above the balcony doors injects a splash of character. LISTED THROUGH LONG AND FOSTER REAL ESTATE, INC.

COURTESY ARGENT CONDOS

Silver Spring, Md.

CONDO: Argent Condos
1200 Blair Mill Road, #307

$324,900 Rubbing elbows with Discovery Communications' headquarters amid downtown Silver Spring's growing condo farm, this 816-square-foot one-bedroom unit is an easy jaunt to the Metro — which is particularly great since owners of Argent Condos' one-bedrooms won't get on-site parking. Marketed as a "boutique building," you'll find all the must-haves of a new and shiny condo, complete with a front desk attendant. Think granite counters and maple cabinets, 9-foot ceilings and stone tiled baths, stainless steel appliances and a combo of gleaming hardwood floors and cushy carpet. Though the floor plan is spacious and inviting, you might wish for more closet space and bigger windows. Grand opening incentives tempt with two years' paid condo fees and $5,000 toward price/closing costs. LISTED THROUGH THE MAYHOOD COMPANY

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Staycation Sensations

expert opinion

Take decorating cues from tropical resorts to give your home an exotic atmosphere

When **ERIN LARKIN** works on designing a hotel room, she takes her cues from what will be hanging on the walls. "Art really inspires what I do," says the 25-year-old hospitality interior designer, who works in the D.C. office of architecture and interior design firm **BBG-BBGM** (BBG-BBGM.com). "A lot of times, I will start there when I'm trying to come up with a theme or a feeling."

Larkin

An abstract work, for example, might steer Larkin toward sleek, contemporary furnishings. Photographs often lead to interiors with earthy, natural elements.

During her three years with BBG-BBGM, Larkin has worked on local hotel projects such as the Hyatt Fair Lakes; the Westin Grand properties in the District's West End and Herndon; and the new Marriott Marquis coming to downtown Washington. She's also come up with decorating concepts for hotel lobbies and guest rooms in places such as Aruba and South Florida's Singer Island.

A summertime beach getaway, or any kind of vacation for that matter, might not be in the cards for many people this year. But Larkin, who is also the writer and creator of **DCDESIGNBLOG.COM**, has some tips for bringing a vacation vibe to your home, sweet home. Here are seven easy ways to make the domestic feel more exotic, all without forking over a paycheck for plane fare or resort fees.

1 Feel the Breeze

Turn off the air-conditioning, open the windows, and enjoy the fresh air. "Get an oversized fan — maybe one of those big bronze metal fans with an antique feel that makes you feel like being at a bungalow resort in the Caribbean," Larkin says. Blow into somewhere like **HOME DEPOT** (Homedepot.com) or **TARGET** (Target.com) to pick one up.

digs

2 Cast Your Cares Aside

Clutter, bills and paperwork aren't very relaxing. So, get them out of your sight. "Go to the **CONTAINER STORE** (Containerstore.com) or Target, get some wicker baskets, and hide all those things that stress you out," Larkin says. "When you come home, you can truly escape."

3 Burn, Baby, Burn

Scented candles go a long way toward evoking the feel of a tropical oasis or the French countryside. Larkin likes Target for good basic candles, and **URBAN OUTFITTERS** (Urbanoutfitters.com) and **CUSP** (3030 M St. NW; 202-625-0893; Cusp.com) for fun scents such as mandarin mint.

4 Let the Sun Shine In

"Remove any heavy curtains or drapes and replace them with white sheers to let you enjoy the sunlight," Larkin says.

5 Add a Touch Of the Tropics

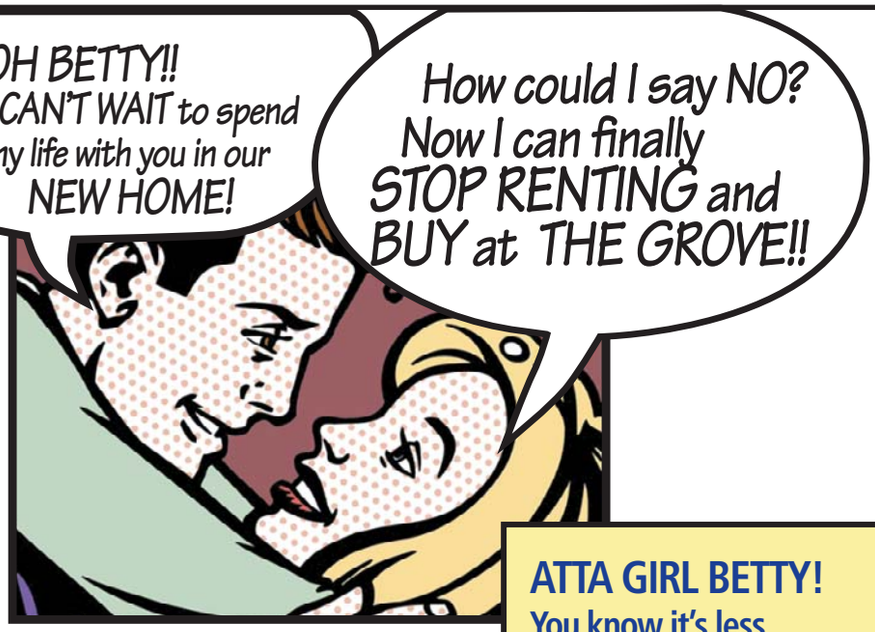
Use plants to turn your urban condo into an island getaway. "Go to your local market, buy some exotic flowers, and set them up on your coffee table," Larkin says. "Or get a simple, large vase from **PIER 1** (Pier1.com), get some long palm leaves, and cascade them in your living room."

6 Make the Bed

Say bye-bye to busy bed linens. "Replace the duvet cover on your bed with a simple white one from **IKEA** (Ikea.com) or Target," Larkin says. "You'll get an instant feeling that you're at a resort, since that's what hotel bedding is these days."

7 Brighten Up

Replace throw pillows, rugs and accessories with brightly colored accents in shades such as teal, orange and pink. Larkin suggests retailers such as **CRATE & BARREL** (Crateandbarrel.com) for affordable buys or shops such as **VASTU** (1829 14th St. NW; 202-234-8344; Vastudc.com) for higher-end goods. BETH LUBERECKI



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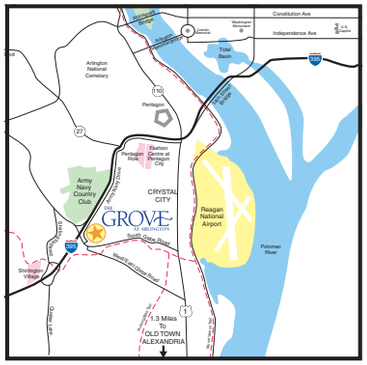

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Deliberation Goes Digital

A slew of Web sites help data-hungry home buyers narrow down their choices

Many wars have been launched with less up-front analysis than some home shoppers are putting into their quests. A proliferation of data-drenched real estate Web sites — and an oversupply of listings, allowing buyers to take their time hunting for just the right place — has given rise to a new breed of buyer: the data head.

The vast majority of buyers search listings online and rely on photos and 360-degree panoramas to narrow the selection. But the data lovers, most of them young, skeptical and highly plugged in, take the search a step further. They set up alerts via computer or Internet-connected phone for when one of their target listings has a price reduction or goes off the market. They compare list-price-to-sales-price ratios. They compare price per square foot for each home that catches their eye. They look up the average age, income and family size of their targeted neighborhoods. Some set up spreadsheets to keep track of all the statistics.

DAYNA SMITH/FTWP

Kevin and Laura Wolfe use their laptops and television to compare property features and prices while shopping for a house.

The number of unique visits to Zillow's Web site in March rocketed 71 percent above last March's figure, company spokeswoman Amy Bohutinsky said. "It's huge. And it's not what you would expect in the middle of one of the greatest housing downturns in a century," she said. Some of the volume may be coming from people trying to determine whether they have enough equity to qualify for a refinance. But she said the company thinks a lot of hits are coming from people thinking about buying.

"They're not doing it yet, but they're doing the research, and they're watching sales and listings in their areas very closely," Bohutinsky said. Also, she said, potential buyers now are mostly investors and younger first-timers, two types of buyers who tend to do a lot of research.

Real estate Web sites continue to load on the numbers to appeal to these data-hungry shoppers. Trulia.com, which already offers charts and tables tracking the supply of listings and price trends for neighborhoods, recently added a tool that allows buyers to search only for homes that have had a price reduction.

> "A lot of [buyers] are saying, 'Get me the information; let me look at the numbers.'"
>
> —MATT PHIPPS
> REAL ESTATE AGENT

Kevin Wolfe, 27, and his wife, Laura, 26, have been digging through the data for about three years. After biding their time in a rented apartment in Fairfax County since moving from Boston, they will close soon on a two-story brick-front house near Chantilly, Va. They were prodded into action in part by what Wolfe called "incredibly low" interest rates, but the $8,000 first-time-buyer tax credit was less of a motivation. "Effectively, it's a drop in the bucket," he said.

Over their three years of house hunting, they visited 50 or 60 open houses. About 10 to 15 homes warranted a second, by-appointment look. They submitted purchase contracts on five houses, with four of them falling through. For two, he admitted, "we definitely bid too low." On another, Wolfe said he thought they had submitted a fair offer, but the seller took the house off the market and put it up for rent. On the fourth, they and the seller could not agree on what repairs the seller would make before closing.

But on this fifth one, he said, the contingencies have all been removed, and they fully expect to move in. "I would never say I enjoyed the process," Kevin Wolfe said.

Along the way, they pulled data from a number of Web sites. They used Redfin.com, a brokerage, as their buyer's agent. Redfin offers buyers a rebate of part of the sales commission, so at closing, they expect to receive 1.5 percent of the home's price back. "That will quite nicely cover a large portion

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DAYNA SMITH/FTWP

The Wolfes looked at a range of Web sites before closing on a house near Chantilly.

of the closing cost," Kevin Wolfe said. He also posted queries about home buying on Redfin's forums so he could solicit opinions on questions he faced along the way.

The sites they focused on shifted over the course of the hunt. Early in their search, as they were narrowing down neighborhoods, they looked for open houses on washingtonpost.com, Kevin Wolfe said. They also checked out neighborhoods on Long & Foster's Web site, which he said had a good graphic interface. "It very easily allowed us to identify which homes were for sale in that neighborhood," Kevin Wolfe said.

The Wolfes also checked Zillow.com for its price estimates. "They occasionally had outdated listing pictures but not outdated listings," he said. They read news reports and blogs on Bankrate.com and Seekingalpha.com, which helped them decide whether to buy or wait.

Laura Wolfe kept track of the listings that interested them by bookmarking them on her browser and would check back when they received e-mail alerts about price changes. Each morning before work, Kevin Wolfe drank his coffee and reviewed e-mails bearing news of listings.

But the key aspect of their data-driven approach was the strategy they adopted on prices. "We would bookmark homes above our price range and revisit them over time," he said. Hoping to catch homes when sellers reduced the prices into their $500,000-ish comfort zone, they set their search range at $400,000 to $600,000. They considered homes 10 to 15 percent above their comfort zone, hoping to catch a good one on the way down.

They offered $525,000 for the home they're under contract to buy, 7.5 percent less than the sellers' asking price. "They took it without even negotiating, which surprised us," Kevin Wolfe said. Based on their research of sales and list prices in that ZIP code, the Wolfes expected the house to sell for 4 or 5 percent less than list, so they fully expected the sellers to counter their offer.

Data lovers go online to compare list-price-to-sales-price ratios. They compare price per square foot for each home that catches their eye.

They're scheduled to close the deal May 4. "We're both relieved and exhausted from the process," Kevin Wolfe said.

Fernando Ferrufino, a Redfin agent in the Washington area who did not work with the Wolfes, said he thinks his Web-based brokerage attracts people who like to handle things themselves. "It's a very information-savvy, Internet-savvy buyer who wants to pull as much data as possible to justify what they want to pay for a home."

But he added that sellers have their own arsenal of statistics to back up their asking prices. "It can turn into the butting of very knowledgeable heads," he said.

Matt Phipps, a 28-year-old agent for Phipps Realty, a firm his grandmother founded in Warwick, R.I., said it's amazing how much buyers know before they even call an agent. He said they often have already checked out Trulia.com and Zillow.com and already know about the first-time-buyer tax credit. He said he thinks members of his generation are skeptical of anyone who markets to them and would prefer to dig through the data on their own.

"We have been marketed to more than any generation, since we were born," he said. "A lot of us, we don't like to be aggressively pitched. A lot of [buyers] are saying, 'Get me the information; let me look at the numbers.'"

He added that many buyers have been sitting out the market. "They've watched the values fall; they've really kept on top of it." Sometimes buyers send listing sheets to him — a reversal of the traditional way business was done, with agents controlling all the information and doling it out to potential buyers.

Could shoppers become overwhelmed by data, so wrapped up in the hunt that they barely get around to actually buying a home? Phipps said he doesn't think so. Keeping tabs on the economy is the bigger challenge.

"Where they become overwhelmed is just the amount of stuff going on right now." ELIZABETH RAZZI (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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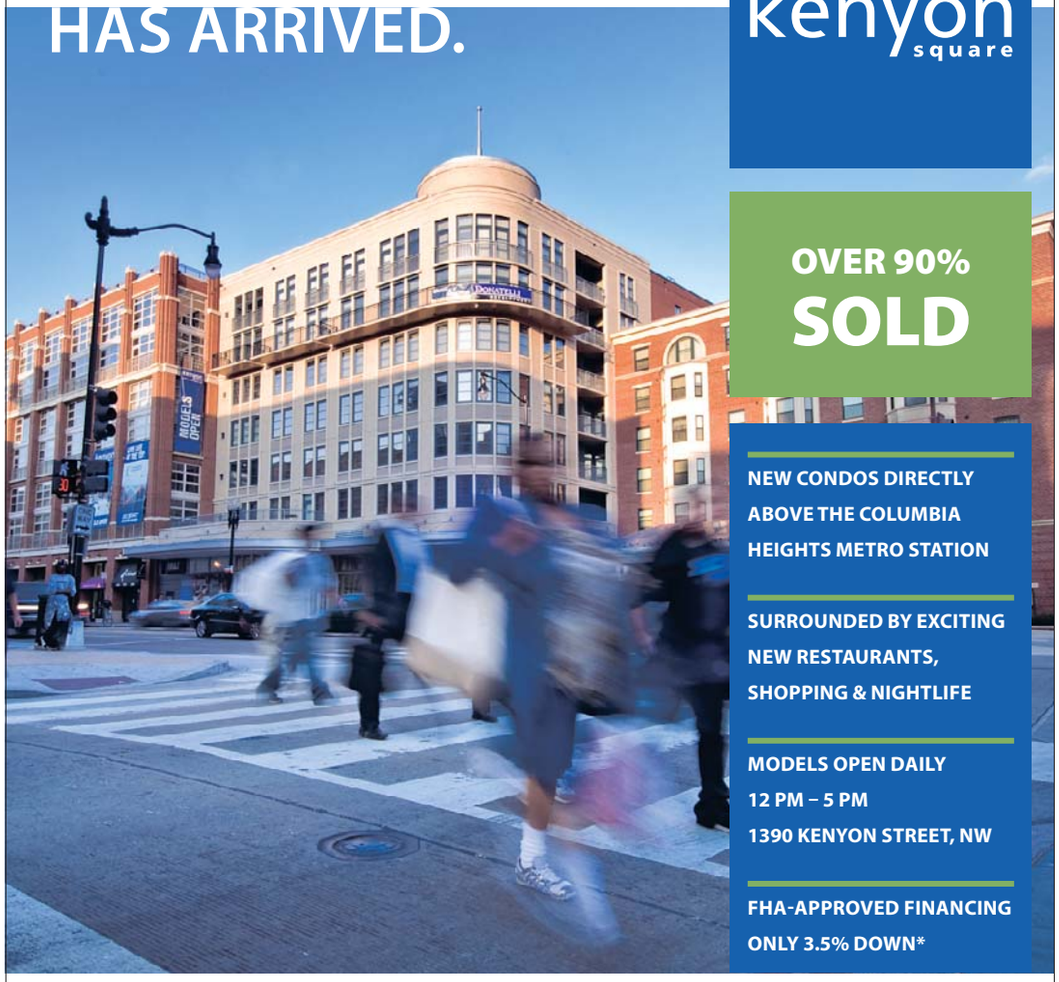

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ISTOCK

Financial experts think that it's unwise for home buyers to completely empty their bank accounts to cover a down payment.

It's the rare home buyer who doesn't walk away from the closing table feeling exhilarated but close to broke. Most have scraped together every dollar they could find to make a down payment and cover the closing costs.

But buyers sometimes are surprised to learn that lenders will disapprove of their draining their bank accounts dry. It doesn't matter that they used the cash to make a bigger down payment or to pay off other debts — steps that usually win an "attaboy" from a loan officer. You still need to have some cash in reserve to cover the unexpected, whether it be a layoff or unpaid furlough, a broken-down car or a leaky roof.

Judy Redpath, a certified financial planner in Reston, Va., recommends that even first-time buyers maintain at least three months of living expenses, preferably six months. That includes the new mortgage payment and all other bills. She acknowledged that the goal is difficult for first-time buyers.

"They should know they will set money aside every month to build that up," she said. "Let's learn from those people who are losing their houses right now."

Aside from emergency expenses, Redpath pointed to the additional costs of furnishing a home. Buyers often don't anticipate such expenses, and they can lead to big credit card balances.

Buyers of new detached houses spend an average of $4,900 during the year after the purchase, according to a study of federal statistics published in December by the National Association of Home Builders. Buyers of resale homes spend an extra $3,600, on average, during their first year. The money goes to repairs and remodeling (even in new homes), appliances, televisions, mattresses, sofas, window coverings and other furnishings, according to the NAHB.

Most first-time buyers are taking out mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration, according to the National Association of Realtors. FHA mortgages require a down payment of at least 3.5 percent and do not require that people buying a single-family primary residence have a certain amount of cash reserves left after closing. But you'll be hard-put to find a financial adviser who says the reserves aren't necessary for a borrower's financial health.

The government's new $8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers (defined as those who have not owned a home in the past three years) can help borrowers with the cash crunch. The FHA recently announced that private lenders, state housing agencies and some nonprofit groups would be allowed to lend buyers the $8,000 for up-front closing costs or to increase their down payment. (The money cannot substitute for the minimum 3.5 percent down payment.)

> **Buyers often don't anticipate the costs of furnishing a home, which can lead to big credit card balances.**

Buyers who qualify for the credit also can file an amended return after their sale closes and tap the $8,000 as a refund on their 2008 taxes and use it to replenish their savings. The new tax credit is available only for deals that close by Dec. 1, and the amount is phased out for married couples earning $150,000 or more, or singles earning $75,000 or more.

"This year's a special year because first-time home buyers are going to get a great tax credit,"

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Before closing, buyers should have extra cash to cover a few months of expenses.

Redpath said. "But they still need to look at their cash flow."

Borrowers who need loans larger than the FHA's limit, $729,750 in the Washington area, can't use the program. And anyone making less than a 20 percent down payment with a non-FHA loan faces lenders' and mortgage insurers' requirements for cash reserves.

Most require at least two months of mortgage payments — including principal, interest, property taxes and insurance — remaining after closing. "It might be more than that if some elements of the qualification are compromised," said Angela Karanas, senior vice president for credit risk with PMI Mortgage Insurance.

For example, if the borrower has had unstable income or gaps in employment, PMI could require about six months' worth of payments in the bank.

People buying investment properties or vacation homes may also be required to have at least six months of payments as cash reserves, particularly if they are counting on renters to supply part of their mortgage payment.

Karanas' company offers private mortgage insurance, a product also known as PMI, designed to minimize the lender's loss if the borrower stops paying the mortgage. Lenders get the coverage, but borrowers pay the premium.

In the Washington area, which mortgage insurance companies classify as a market where home values are declining, borrowers are required to make at least a 10 percent down payment, instead of the typical 5 percent minimum, to cover the risk that the value will fall and borrowers will default. Some lenders argue for even larger cash reserves than are required.

"If I were advising somebody, I would tell them to double or triple that number," said Dan Waetjen, Washington-area group president for BB&T. "If someone loses a job or they have to sell the house, they find they just don't have options if they don't have cash," he said.

> **"Let's learn from those people who are losing their houses right now."**
>
> —JUDY REDPATH, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

Paul Corey, a mortgage loan officer with Weichert Financial Services in Montgomery County, said he recommends that buyers have at least two months of complete living expenses — not just the mortgage — in the bank after closing. "We got so used to doing 100 percent financing for so many years, people don't even think you have to have reserves."

He said buyers often ask him whether they should tap savings to pay off car loans or other debts, which might boost their credit rating and get them a lower interest rate. But he cautions against reducing their savings.

"Sure, it's good to not have a debt any longer, but if you've totally wiped out your savings, what good are you doing in the long run if an emergency pops up?" he said.

Ideally, your cash reserves would be tucked away in a bank account, money-market fund or short-term bank certificates of deposit, from where you could get the money quickly and without penalty should an emergency arise. But Corey said lenders will count up to 70 percent of money invested in a retirement account such as an IRA or 401(k) toward your cash reserves. The lender will base the value on your latest account statement, he said. Lenders won't credit the full 100 percent because of the extra taxes and penalties you would owe on that cash if you tapped it before retirement.

Karanas said, "We prefer cash reserves to truly be cash reserves."

If you have enough cash to handle it, though, there are real monthly savings to be gained from boosting your down payment. Mortgage insurance is expensive, and you don't have to pay it if you can put 20 percent down. Even boosting your down payment from 10 to 15 percent would lower your monthly PMI expense.

Corey offered this example, based on the rates of Mortgage Guaranty Insurance: If someone taking out a $250,000 mortgage made a 10 percent down payment, mortgage insurance would cost $129 per month. With a 15 percent down payment, that monthly bill would drop to $79. And with 20 percent down, that PMI expense is eliminated entirely. ELIZABETH RAZZI (THE WASHINGTON POST)

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PLANET GREEN

Alexandra and Philippe Cousteau

SIBLINGS, ECO-ACTIVISTS, OCEAN CRUSADERS

Growing up in the Cousteau family meant the ocean was your playground and Superman capes were swapped for scuba gear. Siblings (and D.C. residents) Alexandra and Philippe Cousteau, the grandchildren of underwater icon Jacques, bring their family's legacy to the Planet Green network as co-hosts of the monthlong "Blue August," which kicks off Monday. Check out Planetgreen.com/blueaugust for the full programming lineup.

How has being a Cousteau affected your interest in the oceans?

Alexandra: I went on my first expedition at 4 months old, could swim at 1 year and went scuba diving at age 7. But the most important lesson my family taught me isn't about scuba. It's about using our natural resources responsibly.

Is that the message you hope to convey during "Blue August"?

Philippe: Absolutely. There's a whole amazing world out there, of which oceans constitute three-quarters, and people need to know more about them. The oceans are often overlooked, but they are the life-support system of our planet.

If viewers take away one thing from the shows this month, what do you hope it will be?

P: One of the most simple tips I have is, whatever you bring to the beach, bring it home with you. It's not rocket science, but it's clear from the trash on our beaches that not everyone is doing it.

What else should we be aware of?

P: Another pet peeve of mine is plastic. So much debris that goes into the ocean is plastic. A lot of people don't realize that every single piece of plastic ever created still exists. There's a big mass of garbage just floating in the central Pacific that's twice the size of Texas, and most of it is plastic. Before you use something plastic, think: Do I really need to use something for 10 seconds that will now exist on this planet polluting it for the millennia? That's a pretty bad return on the investment.

> "There's a mass of garbage floating in the Pacific that's twice the size of Texas, and most of it is plastic."

You both live in D.C. What are your favorite local eco-resources?

P: The great thing about D.C. is that there are so many farmers markets to buy local produce. The average piece of food in this country travels almost 1,200 miles. Think of all the oil and water that uses and pollution that causes.

A: Whole Foods is my favorite store, not just for food but for beauty products without parabens or preservatives.

You've both become the new, hip faces of the eco-cause.

P: We like to think that words like "sexy," "exciting" and "fun" can be part of the eco-lexicon. In the past, there was a perception that if you're eco-friendly, you're eating granola in a commune wearing Birkenstocks. That's not the case. I don't wear Birkenstocks; I don't even own them.

So, what shoes do you wear?

P: Lately? My shoe of choice has been a pair of John Varvatos boots.

BETSY LOWTHER (EXPRESS)

EVENT HORIZON **Mid-century furniture fiends** and vintage clothing lovers are gearing up for the largest D.C. Big Flea of the year, which runs Saturday 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Dulles Expo Center (4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly, Va.; Damorepromotions.com). The $10 admission gets you two-day access to hundreds of hawkers bearing retro fashion, decor items and more.

goods lookout

1 The City Sleeps

LIVING IN A LOGAN CIRCLE loft doesn't mean you can't top your platform bed with Grandma's vintage quilt. But CB2's new Urban Mandala duvet set ($20 for two shams, $80-$90 for duvet covers; Cb2.com) packs a more urban punch with its rings of skyscrapers and towers but, thankfully, no rats or parking police. The gray-on-white palette goes as well with contemporary neutrals (pale sheets, a steel bed) as it does with, say, a vintage headboard painted tomato red.

2 Male Delivery

NO MATTER WHAT advertising claims you subscribe to, we're fairly certain that your Axe body spray isn't going to whip the ladies into a primitive frenzy anytime soon. But Billy Jealousy men's products? One whiff of the deliciously musky line of nourishing scrubs, cleansers and shaving products ($18-$24, Bellacara, 1000 King St., Alexandria; 703-299-9652), and we're definitely intrigued. Not to throwing-our-clothes-off, you-Tarzan-me-Jane levels, but enough to overlook that football jersey you're wearing.

Grab Bag

3 The Right Dangle

WHAT WE REFER TO ONLY as the Wretched Month (others know it as August) is upon us. Physically, the best defense against its muggy, buggy evil is to A) move to Nova Scotia or B) cuddle up to the air-conditioning unit until Labor Day. Fashionably, we combat the heat in flowy sundresses and sandals. Viv & Ingrid's earrings (shown, $80-$84, Sugar, 1633 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-5331) in semiprecious stones and silver boast a similar breezy vibe and will not raise your body temperature one bit.

4 Hit the Road Pack

THERE ARE STILL a few weeks left to pack up the Prius and take a summer road trip, whether it's to Cincinnati or Sin City. Wisteria's retro cotton tote bags ($16; Wisteria.com) provide ample space to stash maps, sunblock, car-ready snacks or even a very small pet. The colorful carryalls come emblazoned with old-time highway signs — California's 1, Florida's A1A, Route 66 — which, perhaps, subliminally suggest routes. We don't, however, recommend becoming so enamored with vintage-style travel that you toss out your GPS. The idea is to get away, not get lost.

5 Cookie Monster

IN OUR CHILDHOOD fantasies, Corey Haim was our boyfriend and Oreo cookies were as big as our head. But while our Corey love fizzled faster than you can say "License to Drive," our supersize snack dreams are finally coming true. Witness the sandwich cookie cake pan ($30; Williams-sonoma.com), which bakes up a 9-inch wide cake "cookie" with a thick glob of icing standing in for the creamy center. Cue a new fantasy: Now all we want is a giant glass of milk suitable for dunking and Bradley Cooper to share it with.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

At the end of August, I'm attending an outdoor wedding in upstate New York. I've settled on a summery sort of wrap dress in a light blue color. What would you recommend in the way of footwear? — RACHEL

■ Manolo says, the few years back the Manolo attended the late summer wedding in the Catskills. It was the wonderful celebration of love and family and friends.

Unfortunately, the weather was hot and humid, and so even though the ceremony proceeded flawlessly, it was

nonetheless difficult for the Manolo to fully enjoy the festivities, what with the quantities of sweat running off his brow and puddling up in his shoes.

And this is the problem with even the best-planned of outdoor weddings. There are things that even the most attentive bridezillas cannot control: clouds of bloodthirsty mosquitoes, lightening strikes that set off car alarms, small aircraft towing banners advertising malt liquor and freakishly muggy weather that leaves guests wilted and spent, causing the caterer to run out of beer before the first dance.

Look, here is the Stoneybrook ($214.20, Zappos.com) from Stuart Weitzman, the low-heeled sandal that will keep you cool during even the hottest of ceremonies.

Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

MARK ROTHKO (1903–1970). "OCHRE AND RED ON RED," 1954. OIL ON CANVAS; 92 5/8 X 63 3/4 INCHES. THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION, WASHINGTON, D.C. ACQUIRED 1964 © 1998 KATE ROTHKO PRIZEL & CHRISTOPHER ROTHKO/ARTISTS RIGHTS SOCIETY (ARS), NEW YORK.

lookout home

1 Geometric Painting

Masking tape shrugs off its utilitarian job description to moonlight in the art world. Guided by taped stripes, plot a paint-by-numbers masterpiece.

TOTAL: $72

INSPIRATION: An artwork by abstract artist Sarah Morris, spotted in a recent issue of Elle Decor

MATERIALS: Masking tape ($1.39, Utrecht), an array of student-quality acrylic paint ($5.69 for each 8-oz. tube, Utrecht), 24-by-24-inch pre-stretched canvas ($19, Utrecht)

LESSONS LEARNED: Make up for those failed geometry tests from years past: Use a straightedge to meticulously lay straight tape tracks. Otherwise, tape can easily warp.

Cover Art

If you guessed that the painting on the **RIGHT — A 1950S ABSTRACT BY MOODY MASTER WILLIAM ROTHKO — WAS PRICELESS**, award yourself an honorary art degree from Express University. See the real thing — and other works by the artist — at the Phillips Collection (1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151). The work on the **LEFT IS AN ACRYLIC-ON-PREFAB CANVAS PIECE BY ARLINGTON INTERIOR DESIGNER SARA TUTTLE,** who finds inspiration for her DIY creations in art history books and at local galleries.

Make Your Own Masterpiece

Creative, easy-to-do projects from potato printing to snapshot doodling help you deck your walls with art — no Picasso gene needed

When the empty walls of your pad beg for decoration — but your wallet is as empty as van Gogh's after a bender — trade your winning-a-Sotheby's-auction fantasies for a trip to the art supply store. Because making your digs a one-person gallery can be as easy as playing Jackson Pollock for an afternoon, no MFA required.

Arlington interior designer Sara Tuttle's (Saratuttle.com) clients often dole out thousands of dollars for oversized Pop-Art canvases or rococo pastorals to accent their homes. But Tuttle's personal budget isn't quite so generous. So, when she has a wall to fill, she scours art-history books, design magazines and blogs for ideas and then grabs a canvas and paints her own Rothko- or Miró-esque masterpiece.

Aspiring artists might also prowl local art galleries and museums for inspiration. (Hey, if you're going to say, "I could do that," put your paintbrush where your mouth is.) Tuttle is drawn to the drama of abstract expressionism, a style that the still life-impaired might find more approachable than, say, a detailed landscape depicting the Rosslyn skyline or a portrait of your Uncle Alvarez.

"Art can transform the look of a room," she says. "You don't have to be particularly artistic. You're just drawing shapes. Go into it with a sense of humor, and you'll usually be pleasantly surprised by what you can accomplish."

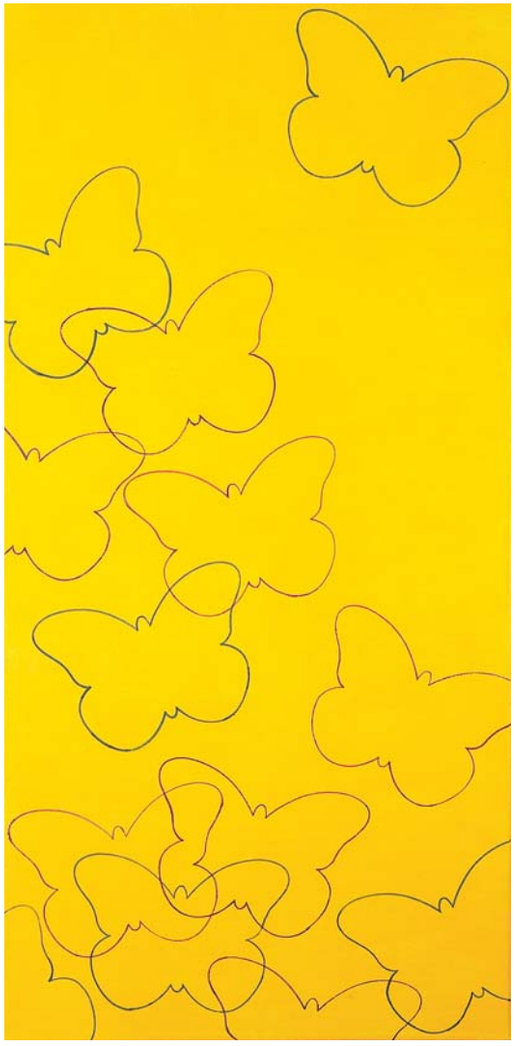
Even if your adventures in acrylic don't unleash an inner Rembrandt, at least you won't run into your masterpiece's mass-produced twin out at a dinner party. "Your home is your biggest reflection of who you are. Don't put up anything your neighbor could have," says Kristan Cunningham, "Design Buddy" to Rachael Ray and former host of HGTV's now-defunct "Design on a Dime."

After all, DIY art adds more than just a splash of color — it's a sophisticated way to inject personality onto a blank slate, whether your creative strokes are sure or shaky.

"There is such an emphasis on decorating in ways that are deemed tasteful and stylish that the individuality of the owner can get lost," says Gerard Smith, author of "Artful Spaces: DIY Wall Art for the Home" (North Light, $19), which details projects for newbie artists. "The best thing about DIY art? You get to express yourself in your own environment."

Using advice from Smith and others, we created projects that are part grade-school art class, part stylish decoration. Whether you tell friends how you got such gallery-quality wall bling is up to you. KATIE KNOROVSKY

home lookout



2 Butterfly Stencils

Butterfly cutouts plus permanent markers equals an easy flight of (tracing) fancy.

TOTAL: $31

INSPIRATION: Adapted step-by-step instructions from Gerard Smith's book "Artful Spaces"

MATERIALS: Yellow-orange acrylic paint ($6.99 for 2-oz. tube, Utrecht); butterfly-shaped cardboard cards ($3.95, Paper Source); turquoise, purple and brown permanent markers ($1.09 each, Utrecht); 15-by-30-inch pre-stretched canvas ($16.99, Utrecht)

LESSONS LEARNED: Large craft stores and online emporiums (like Craftsetc.com) are the best bet for a variety of stencil options. Stencil 1 (Stencill.com) sells spray paint stencils, from Eames chairs to lotus flowers. Or peruse your place for traceable objects (think small bottles, Warholian bananas).

3 Photo Art

You, too, can star in an indie romance flick! Transform a candid snapshot into quirky art with the press of a photocopier's "enlarge" button and a few well-placed crayon scribbles and black outlines.

TOTAL: $24

INSPIRATION: Loosely based on the hand-doodled style featured in the movie poster for "Away We Go"

MATERIALS: Photocopied snapshot enlarged at 250 percent (22 cents, FedEx Office), 9-by-12-inch frame ($14.49, Utrecht), pastels ($6.69, Utrecht), construction paper ($2.59, Utrecht)

LESSONS LEARNED: Less is more when you're coloring with neon tones, lest a groom's tux devolves into a clown suit.

4 Potato Cherry Blossoms

Go ahead: Play with your food. Here, potato slices act as cherry blossom stamps for a messy-yet-mod take on D.C.'s annual rite of spring. Bonus: Enjoy year-round blossoms sans the fanny-packed throngs.

TOTAL: $40

INSPIRATION: Adapted step-by-step instructions from Gerard Smith's book "Artful Spaces"

MATERIALS: Black, gray and white acrylic paint ($5.69 for each 8-oz. tube, Utrecht), magenta acrylic paint ($5.19 for 2-oz. tube, Utrecht), 18-by-24-inch pre-stretched canvas ($16.99, Utrecht), potato (50 cents, Whole Foods)

LESSONS LEARNED: Spuds make imperfect prints. Generally, that's a good thing. Even so, follow these steps for better dipping: Cut the potato at its roundest spot. Use a finger or paintbrush to spread the paint evenly on the smooth surface. Skewer the tater with a fork, stamp onto the canvas, then carefully twist and lift.

5 Twinkle Board

Sending a message in a bottle is sweet — if you're a sailor. Chic homebodies can spread the word via light-up wall art, handmade from a salvaged plank that glows like a design-forward Lite-Brite.

TOTAL: $12

INSPIRATION: A project featured on crafty decor blog Design*Sponge (Designspongeonline.com)

MATERIALS: Scrap wood ($1, Logan Hardware), rosewood varnish ($4.99 for half-pint, Logan Hardware), string of white mini-lights ($5.99, Christmas-light-source.com)

LESSONS LEARNED: Hardware stores will often give you a scrap of wood for little or nothing, but it's worth your time to buff and polish it with varnish or paint. Choose a drill bit as close to the light bulb size as possible, and drill into the front side to minimize signs of cracking (an inevitable occurrence with cheap plywood).

WORD UP: Christmas lights meet plywood for a lean-able, plug-in-able piece that'll illuminate your pad — and impress guests.

lookout entertainment

nightlife agenda

COURTESY ALASH ENSEMBLE

The unique vocal stylings of the Alash Ensemble will blow your mind at Iota.

FRIDAY

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO will host Afterhours featuring Quentin Harris, a product of New York's Shelter who has a hot hand for remixes. He's also the producer responsible for some of the biggest anthems of the past seven years; his 11-minute rework of Donnie's "Cloud 9" remains epic. Burns and Harris helm the main room, while Will Eastman, Nacey, Harry Hotter and James Nasty join forces to bump the basement.

SATURDAY

It's back! After a brief absence, Run for Cover returns to the **BLACK CAT**. For the uninitiated, the evening consists of one-performance-only local supergroups that play cover songs. Hey, they're not trying to fool anybody with the name. This year's lineup includes Blonde on Blonde, the Fly-Bys, the Dee Cees, Guided by Vices, Five Imaginary Boys and Cherry Bombz. Proceeds go to Fort Reno.

SUNDAY

You're unlikely to see a more unique performance this month than when the Alash Ensemble, a group of Tuvan throat singers, comes to Arlington. The quartet specialize in the sort of vocal gymnastics that you'd never hear on "American Idol" — more like "Ancient Central Asian Idol." Expect to be slack-jawed, mystified and awe-struck at **IOTA**.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at **washingtonpost.com/gog**

TRACY BENNETT/UNIVERSAL PICTURES

I LOVE YOU, MAN: Adam Sandler, left, is an aging star of silly films who befriends a young comedian (played by Seth Rogen) while re-examining what matters in life.

The Mid-Movie Crisis

Judd Apatow's new flick 'Funny People' starts with a bang but peters out later

FILM | If only Adam Sandler and Seth Rogen hadn't gotten in the car.

If only they hadn't left Los Angeles, where everything in "Funny People" was going so well, and driven north to Marin County, where everything falls apart. Judd Apatow would have had his most mature, accomplished film to date.

"Funny People" provides the eternally adolescent Sandler with yet another opportunity to show his serious side. But it also allows Apatow, as writer and director, to display some previously unexplored darker instincts. Both men rise to the challenge.

Apatow should have maintained his focus on the friendship that forms between Sandler (as superstar George Simmons) and Rogen (as aspiring stand-up Ira Wright) as well as the established comics and wannabes who surround them. Instead, he has his characters make an unnecessary road trip.

George has a thriving career based on his popular stage act and silly crowd-pleasers. But then he learns he has a terminal disease. Suddenly, his perspective on everything duly changes. After seeing Ira do a set at an L.A. comedy club, George hires him to be his assistant, joke writer and friend.

From there, George drags Ira with him to chase after the one who got away: Laura, who's now married and living north of San Francisco with her rich, Australian husband (Eric Bana). Laura is played by Apatow's wife, Leslie Mann; the couple's daughters, Maude and Iris, play their girls, Mable and Ingrid.

Ostensibly, this overlong segment is meant to demonstrate the kind of traditional, satisfying life George might have had if he'd made different choices; instead, it plays like a self-indulgent showcase of Apatow's family. And there's nothing funny about that.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

FILM | THE BEST ONSCREEN MIDLIFE CRISES

1 "Lost in Translation": The king of the midlife crisis, Bill Murray, in late-career mode.

2 "Old School": Will Ferrell and his buddies trade in midlife blues for fratastic fun.

3 "American Beauty": Kevin Spacey stars in this darkly funny yet touching film.

4 "Groundhog Day": The king of the midlife crisis, Bill Murray, in mid-career mode.

5 "Sideways": Much wine was had at this coming-out party for Paul Giamatti's career.

6 "City Slickers": Yesterday, Billy Crystal was a business man. Today, he's a cowboy.

'FUNNY PEOPLE'

- **DIRECTOR:** Judd Apatow
- **STARS:** Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill, Leslie Mann
- **IN A NUTSHELL:** An up-and-coming comic befriends a movie star who believes he's dying and searches for a change.
- **FOR FANS OF:** Judd Apatow

CASTING Till Jail Do They Part Russell Crowe is in final negotiations to star in writer-director Paul Haggis' "The Next Three Days" for Lionsgate. Haggis, who made his Oscar-winning "Crash" at the studio, is writing, directing and producing the remake of the French thriller "Pour Elle." It tells the story of a married couple thrown into a harrowing situation when the wife is imprisoned for a murder she claims she didn't commit and the husband must devise a way to get her out. (THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER)

As Good as Is Expected

'The Answer Man' is a nice, cliche-riddled movie about a man with no answers at all

FILM | It isn't hard to guess, from a comedy with a title like "The Answer Man," that the man in question probably doesn't have any answers at all. But the cliches and overly familiar plot points don't end there.

The debut from writer-director John Hindman features a premise that sounds an awful lot like "As Good as It Gets," except the script isn't as sharp.

Jeff Daniels stars as an antisocial misanthrope, Lauren Graham co-stars as the struggling single mom who magically softens him, and Lou Taylor Pucci plays the young man in need of spiritual guidance. Together, this motley threesome forge an unlikely support system.

The actors tend not to overplay their emotions in the film's poignant and dramatic moments; Daniels has enough normal-guy accessibility to pull them off, and Graham is always likable in a no-nonsense way.

Daniels stars as Arlen Faber, an author who became an international sensation 20 years ago with "Me and God," in which he detailed conversations he supposedly had with the Almighty. From the profane tirade he unleashes when we first see him, we know he's a fraud.

Nevertheless, Arlen feels he must hide inside his Philadelphia brownstone to avoid the throngs of worshippers begging for his wisdom.

When his back goes out, he's forced to go outside and crawls on all fours to see local chiropractor Elizabeth (Graham). He's instantly, if awkwardly, smitten. Could he really like her that much, that fast? Or is it just that his back feels better?

MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Jeff Daniels, right, is the hermit, and Lauren Graham is the woman who fixes him.

All of a sudden, he's a nice guy, and the transformation is dizzying.

Pucci rounds out their trio as Kris, an owner of a bookstore right near Arlen's home and Elizabeth's office. Just out of rehab for alcoholism, Kris seeks the answers he thinks Arlen can provide. Arlen indulges him with patience, kindness and insight — showing genuine glimmers of the grace he'd previously faked for profit.

Jeff Daniels stars as Arlen Faber, an author who became a sensation 20 years go with 'Me and God.'

This all sounds too pleasant, of course, so Hindman cooks up some obligatory obstacles and misunderstandings to separate his characters before their ultimate feel-good reconciliation.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Now Playing

AWAY WE GO (R, 98 minutes) Burt (John Krasinski) and Verona (Maya Rudolph) find out that Verona is pregnant and embark on a journey to find a new definition of themselves as an expanded family unit. The film, at least at first blush, feels like a welcome respite from the false happily-ever-afters of most mainstream movies. (AH)

BRÜNO (R, 88 minutes) The latest mock-documentary satiric ritual from comic provocateur Sacha Baron Cohen may count as the summer's biggest misfire. Bruno is a gay, Austrian host of a fashion show. Whether it's a painful episode involving Bruno's trying to trap presidential candidate Ron Paul into making a sex tape or trying to broker Arab-Israeli peace or his encounters with gay "converters" in Alabama, the skits here don't add up to anything substantive. (AH)

WARNER BROS.

KIDS ARE SCARY: In "Orphan," Esther, center, is adopted by a nice family and proceeds to terrorize them as best she can.

CHERI (R, 100 minutes) A radiant Michelle Pfeiffer is Lea, a courtesan well schooled in pleasure and the politics of the personal, who is approaching that point where she will age out of her profession (any parallels to Hollywood are no doubt intentional). What began as a frothy period piece becomes a meditation on age, passion and the tyranny of the typical. (JA)

(500) DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13, 95 minutes) This romance, starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Zooey Deschanel, understands that we mark our lives by our scrapes and defeats with love rather than by the white-wedding-cake successes. It's a drama that, at first blush, would seem excruciatingly ordinary: the 500-day affair between Tom, who believes wholeheartedly in love, and Summer, the object of his affection, who isn't sure about love at all. What makes us connect is Tom's funny, morose and ironic commentary as he does his damndest to reach the heart of a woman whose idea of lover and friend

Continued on page 26

lookout entertainment

NowPlaying

Continued from page 25

is, well, confusing. (DT)

FOOD, INC. (PG, 94 minutes) This absorbing look behind the curtain of the cynical and often sickening workings of the modern industrial food system does a superb job of making its case that our current food ways are drastically out of whack. The film deftly demonstrates how issues such as illegal immigration, public health and intellectual property law intersect at the largely hidden nexus of Big Meat. See the film after dinner, but see it. (AH)

G-FORCE (PG, 88 minutes) This aggressively stupid entry in the family-adventure genre from Jerry Bruckheimer is a dispiriting primer on the low regard Hollywood has for the intelligence and curiosity of children — and the time and money of their parents. The spies here are specially trained guinea pigs, Darwin (voiced by Sam Rockwell), Juarez (Penélope Cruz) and Blaster (Tracy Morgan). With the assistance of a buzzing, microcamera-laden fly and a tech-savvy mole (Nicolas Cage), the furry spooks try to bring down arms dealer Leonard Saber (Bill Nighy) and save their tiny fraction of the FBI's research budget. Their handler is played by bearded comedian Zach Galifianakis, who, fresh off his inspired turn in "The Hangover," is somehow made boring here. Bruckheimer paid at least five screenwriters to work on this script, but unlike special effects, screenplays rarely get better when you throw money at them. DAN KOIS

THE HANGOVER (R, 99 minutes) Doug (Justin Bartha) and three guy friends (Bradley Cooper, Ed Helms, Zach Galifianakis) decide to enjoy one last hurrah in Las Vegas two days before Doug ties the knot. But almost as soon as they

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entertainment lookout

embark on that good night, all becomes oblivion. Who was the stripper leaving their hotel room early in the morning? How did that tiger end up in their bathroom? And what the heck happened to their missing friend Doug? (DT)

HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG, 153 minutes) Love potions, common-room snogging, adolescent heartbreak. It's hard to blame the film's screenwriter, Steve Kloves, or director, David Yates, for focusing on the romance. After all, as young-adult adventures go, the sixth book in the "Harry Potter" series is awfully light on the adventure. The three leads — Daniel Radcliffe (Harry), Rupert Grint (Ron) and Emma Watson (Hermione) — all give their most charming performances to date. DAN KOIS

HUMPDAY (R, 95 minutes) If prizes were handed out for a low-budget movie with the year's highest concept, one would have to be reserved for Lynn Shelton's film, in which two straight, former college buddies decide to make a gay porn film together. Shelton's Ben and Andrew (Mark Duplass and Joshua Leonard) are aging avatars of the "awesome" generation. Ben, a "transportation planner," is endeavoring to have a baby with his wife, Anna (Alycia Delmore). Andrew is an itinerant artist who avoids finishing anything by shuttling between Lonely Planet destinations. The friends emerge from an uninhibited art-crowd party, where they agree to go at each other for an amateur porn festival. Delmore, Duplass and Leonard work up a loose-limbed, improvisatory energy, but the film radiates with the sheen of a film that has been thought out within an inch of its witty and insightful life. JAN STUART

THE HURT LOCKER (R, 130 minutes) Kathryn Bigelow's captivating, completely immersive action thriller is set in Iraq in 2004, but it transcends time and place, and in the process attains something universal and enduring. Viewers are plunged into the disorienting world of the soldiers who disarm what Americans have come to know as IEDs, or roadside bombs, neither of which does full justice to the carnage they inflict. (AH)

I LOVE YOU, BETH COOPER (PG-13, 101 minutes) It's teen-movie business as usual: Girls are never intentionally funny, and the boy will get the hottie if he can (respectfully) convince her that she shouldn't sleep with people who don't respect her. Perhaps the best thing that can be said about this film is that the title is correctly punctuated. RUTH MCCANN

MOON (R, 97 minutes) Sam Bell is stationed on the moon sometime in the future to oversee the mining of clean energy from moon rocks. He has been there for three years, beaming power back to Earth. Then he finds something on the surface of the moon that throws everything into doubt — including, tragically, the film's logic. "Moon," a moody sci-fi morsel, has the right look, the right sound and the right feel. But storywise, it fails to live up to the promise of its premise. (DZ)

MY SISTER'S KEEPER (PG-13, 109 minutes) At least two perfectly good movies fight to break free within this busy, oddly shaped weepie: one a peppery, provocative legal thriller, the other a mother-daughter melodrama worthy of Joan Crawford at her most Gothically self-sacrificing. (AH)

ORPHAN (R, 123 minutes It's hard to know where to begin when assessing the depraved, worthless piece of filth that is this high-gloss horror show about a well-meaning couple who bring home a 9-year-old girl to join their family, only to discover, way too late, that she's a homicidal psychopath. Surely, writers David Leslie Johnson and Alex Mace deserve their own circle of hell for thinking up the story, which moves with breathtaking cynicism from disturbing to grotesque to perverse to ludicrous. Both Peter Sarsgaard and Vera Farmiga are apparently in desperate need of a paycheck — otherwise, how to explain lending their considerable talents to such rank exploitation? Oh, and what have we here: None other than Leonardo DiCaprio is listed as a producer, proving that his concern

Continued on page 28

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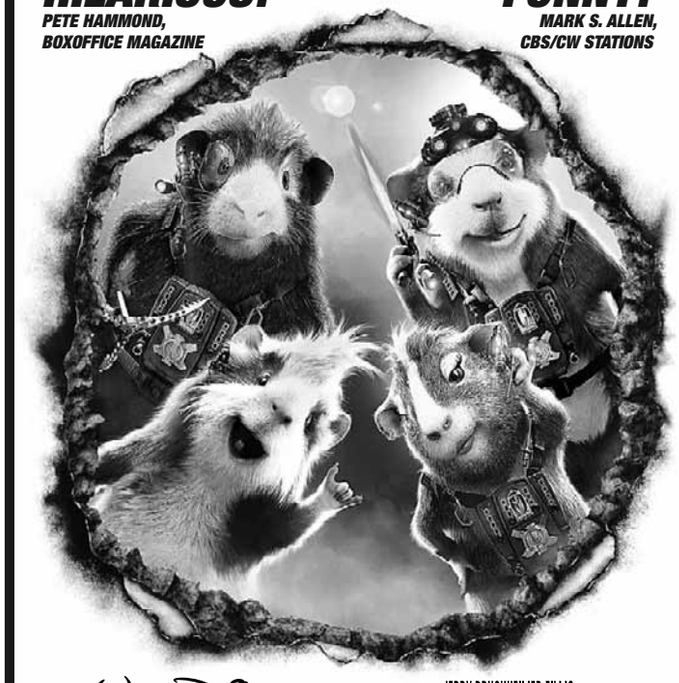

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lookout entertainment

NowPlaying

Continued from page 27

for the environment clearly doesn't extend to poisoning the culture. Shame on them all — every single one. (AH)

PUBLIC ENEMIES (R, 140 minutes) John Dillinger was an ugly, ruthless son of a gun,

COLUMBIA PICTURES

Katherine Heigl and Gerard Butler in the oh-so-standard rom-com "The Ugly Truth."

so, naturally, Johnny Depp plays him as a quiet, shifty rogue who robs banks with scissorhands instead of submachine guns. Leading the FBI manhunt is a rigid agent played by Christian Bale with an introversion even more pathological than Bruce Wayne's. For two hours and 20 minutes, it simply goes click, click, click. DAN ZAK

THE UGLY TRUTH (R, 101 minutes) At a floundering Sacramento TV station,

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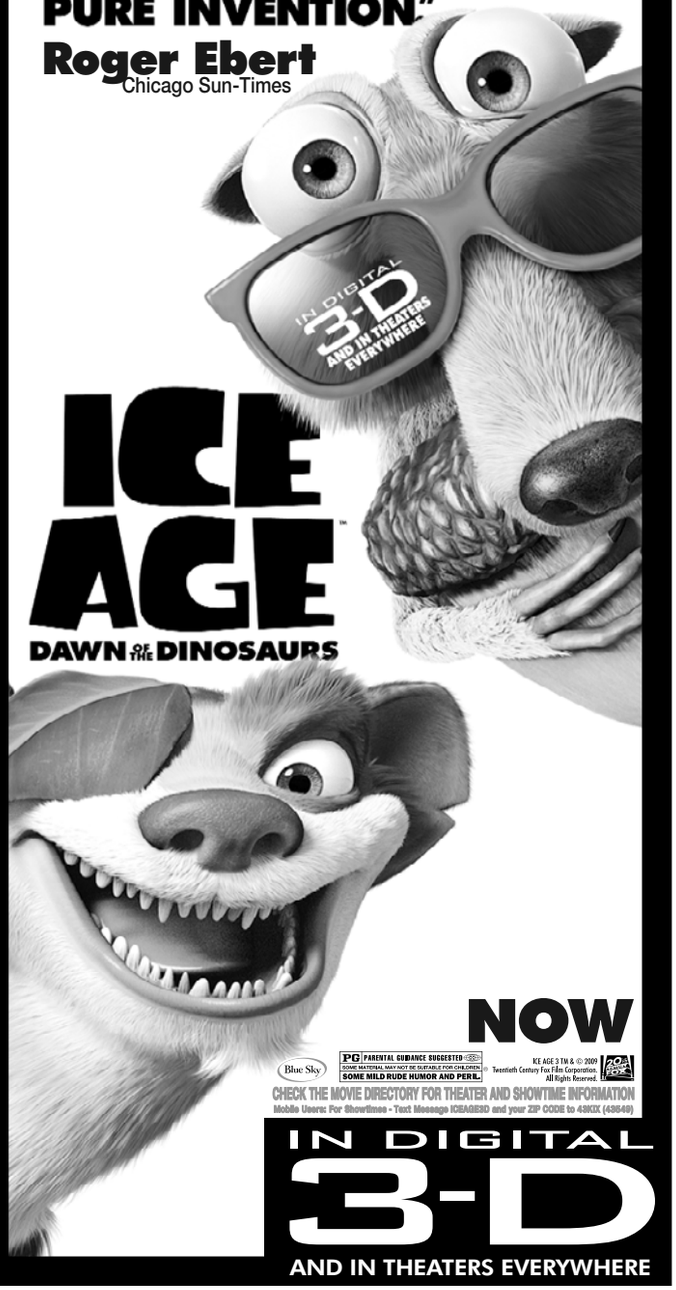
Roger Ebert
Chicago Sun-Times



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entertainment lookout

Abby (Katherine Heigl) can't seem to keep her Nielsen ratings or her dating life steady. But what's this? Egad! A fly in the ointment! The TV station picks up a relationship advice spot hosted by the rakish, unshaven, semi-offensive Mike (Gerard Butler). Mike uses dirty words on air, Abby hates Mike, Mike doesn't believe in love, Abby doesn't believe in lust, Abby wants to date some doctor, Mike helps Abby date doctor, unlikely friendship (and something more?) ensues, vibrating lingerie is purchased, etc. The film might be the first film in which a woman's yanking out of her hair extensions signals a true emotional climax. And it's just this sort of off-kilter quality that makes this script more impressive than its fluffier cousins. One senses a gleefully dark, ironic sensibility lurking in the minds of the film's three female screenwriters. RUTH MCCANN

MAGNOLIA PICTURES

Alycia Delmore stars in "Humpday."

UP (PG, 98 minutes) Pixar has done it again. The company's first foray into 3-D animation is a soaring, touching, funny and altogether buoyant movie that lives up to its title in spirit and in form. (AH)

WHATEVER WORKS (PG-13, 92 minutes) This toxic, contemptuous, unforgivably unfunny bagatelle finds Woody Allen at his most misanthropically one-note. The film plays like a warped kind of summa of Allen's tortured relationship with women. (AH)

REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S **JOHN ANDERSON, NN HORNADAY, MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON** AND **DAN ZAK**. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE **WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT**

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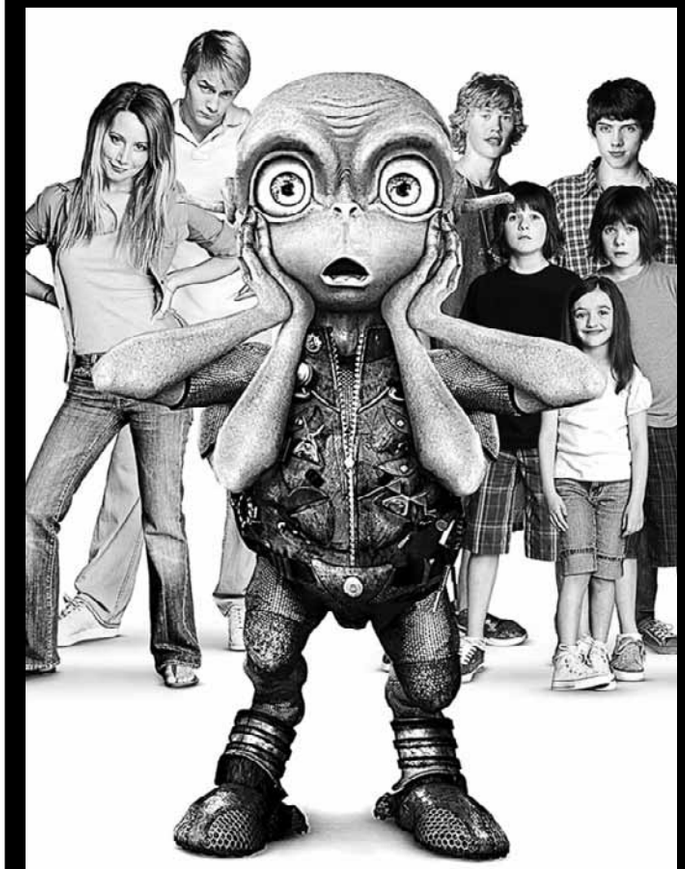

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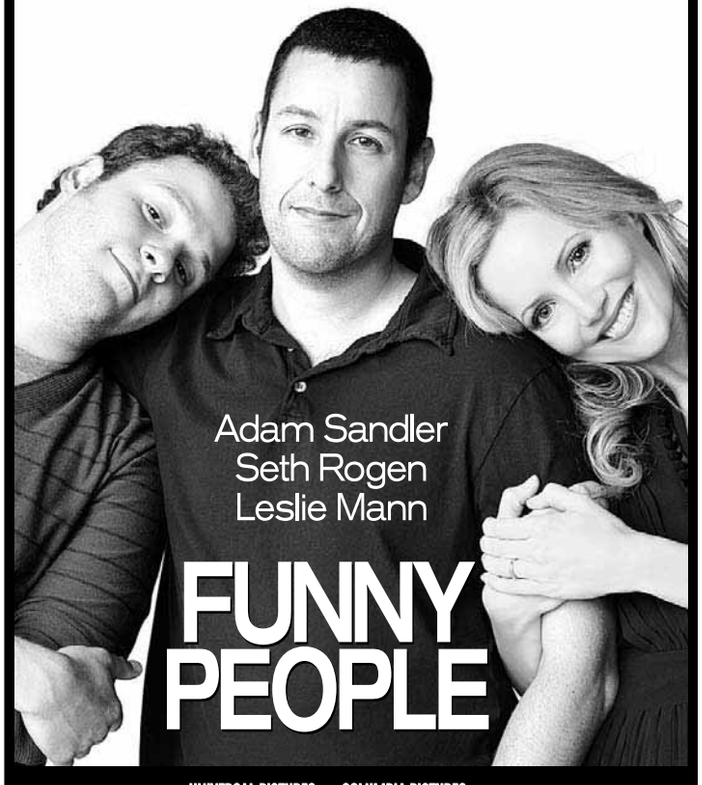

Adam Sandler
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FUNNY PEOPLE

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top stops

Compiled by Express' Nicole Ocran, Brian Austin and Topher Forhecz. Read more at **Expressnightout.com/topstops.**

1 You're the Piano Lady

Songstress Tori Amos will be making an appearance this Saturday in promotion of her latest album. About the only thing that's predictable when it comes to an Amos show is that you'll hear a piano and see her trademark fiery red hair. Other than that, everything's up in the air. Amos is comfortable with piano renditions of her own songs, of course, but also with covers of everything from Nirvana to Britney Spears. T.F.

➜ *DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., $45; 202-638-2661. (Farragut West)*

2 When He's 67

He's one of the greatest rock 'n' rollers of all time and certainly needs no introduction. Oh, all right, fine. Paul McCartney (of that Beatles band you may have heard of) is still capable of turning hundreds of fans into shrieking adolescent weepers, even though his Fab Four days were done almost 40 years ago. Get ready to experience Beatlemania all over again. N.O.

➜ *FedEx Field, 1600 FedEx Way, Landover, Md.; Sat., 7 p.m., $30-$250; 202-397-7328.*

CAROL PRATT

3 Bargain Hunting

The Studio Theatre's annual garage sale this Saturday, held at the corner of 14th and P streets, should be a huge attraction for bargain hunters and collectors alike. You can pick up props and sets from your favorite shows and decorate your apartment — we're going for the beach-chic chair from "Year of Magical Thinking." Then walk up 14th for the annual Dog Days of Summer Sidewalk Sale on 14th and U streets. B.A.

➜ *Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW; Sat., 10 p.m.-4 p.m., free; 202-332-3300. (Dupont Circle)*

REGAL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13
Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1110 1220 240 340) 620 720 940 1040
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1130 150 430) 700 920 1130
500 DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13) (1150 210 440) 710 930 1150
OC & DA: THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 AM)
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1100 130 400) 630 855 1110
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1210 230 505) 730
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (110 200 350 450) 640 740 910 1010 1140
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1120 205 455) 750 1040
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1200 320) 650 1020
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1250 420) 800 1120
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 220 500) 810 1035
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (100 PM 330 PM) 600 PM
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) 820 PM 1055 PM
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 950 PM 1200 AM

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14
20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (100 200 415 515) 730 830 1045
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1200 220 440) 700 930
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 245 510) 745 1015
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1215 240 450) 740 950
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (400 PM) 630 PM 845 PM
OC & DA: G-FORCE (PG) (145 PM)
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 150 300 430 530) 715 815 945 1050
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 445) 800 1040
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1245 130 410 500) 720 820 1030
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1250 330) 640 915
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1240 350) 710 1020
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (120 PM) 650 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (420 PM) 1000 PM

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14
9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1255 305 515) 720 945
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 150 410 500) 730 820 1040
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 400) 655 1015
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (200 430) 650 940
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (140 420) 700 925
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1240 300 520) 750 1000
500 DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13) (155 425) 715 1010
OC & DA: HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1230 PM)
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (130 350 445) 710 805 1030
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (330 PM) 950 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1245 315 530) 745
HURT LOCKER (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 740 1035
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) 1020 PM
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (100 PM) 640 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (345 PM) 630 PM 930 PM
UP (PG) (120 PM)

MAJESTIC STADIUM 20
900 Ellsworth Dr, Silver Spring, MD 240-393-4826

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1030 1130 135 240 440) 615 745 930 1050
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1125 140 350) 610 845 1110
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1010 1215 245 500) 710 920
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1015 1225 235 445) 700 910 1120
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1045 1110 1255 120 305 340 525) 605 800 835 1020 1055
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 230 540) 825 1105
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1035 1250 310 530) 750 1010
RW & DA: THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 205 425) 640 900 1125
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1000 1200 105 315 430) 630 740 940 1100
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 625 PM 830 PM 1040 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1100 110 330 545) 815 1045
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1145 AM 200 PM 415 PM)
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (1005 100 400) 655 955
HURT LOCKER (R) - ID REQ'D (1025 125 420) 715 1025
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1205 325) 645 1000
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1105 155 435) 720 950
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 255 510) 735 1005
UP (PG) (1020 1240 300 520) 755 1030

ROYALE STADIUM 14
6505 America Blvd, Hyattsville, MD 301-864-3455

THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1255 310 520) 730 940
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1240 245 500) 725 935
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 330) 655 1010
RW & DA: FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 400) 735 1040
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1200 1230 220 250 440 515) 705 740 930 1000
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 430) 720 1005
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 300 530) 750 1035
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1220 340) 700 1020
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 325) 710 1015
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1250 305 535) 745 955
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1225 350) 715 1025
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1155 255 525) 755 1030
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (100 415) 650 945

BETHESDA 10
7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1245 255 500) 710 920
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (110 150 315 420) 645 730 945 1035
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (200 450) 740 1030
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 300 530) 750 1010
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1205 220 435) 650 910
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1220 340) 700 1020
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 930 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1200 225 450) 715
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1210 240 515) 745 1025
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 230 500) 720 1000

BOWIE STADIUM 14
15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

HURT LOCKER (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 415) 720 1030
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 100 350 420) 700 730 1010 1040
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1100 110 320 530) 740 950
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1105 115 325 535) 800 1025
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1135 205 430) 700 915
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 145 435) 725 1020
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 245 520) 745 1015
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1200 230 500) 735 945
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1130 1205 300 330) 615 645 930 1000
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D 940 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1150 220 445) 710
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (340 PM) 935 PM
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (105 PM) 655 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 315 545) 815 1040

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

GALLERY PLACE STADIUM 14
701 Seventh St NW 800-FANDANGO 1721#

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1215 300) 345 615 715 930 1030 1235
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 240) 500 730 1000 1220
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1140 150) 410 640 910 1120
OC & DA: THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 PM)
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (140) 440 745 1040
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1135 200) 330 430 610 700 850 940 1210
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (130 350) 630 900 1115
500 DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13) (1155 240) 510 740 1010 1230
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1215) 340 710 1025
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D (1240) 315 545 805 1020 1225
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (1120 AM) 455 PM 1035 PM
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1210) 335 650 1005
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (220 PM) 755 PM
MOON (R) - ID REQ'D 1145 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 230) 535 810 1045

BALLSTON COMMON STADIUM 12
671 N Glebe Rd 800-FANDANGO 377#

THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 250 530) 800 1030
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 305 405) 620 720 935 1035
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (130 355) 635 855
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1205 230 455) 735 955
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1240 325 415) 645 745 1015
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (155 425) 655 920
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (145 PM 500 PM) 810 PM
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1220 340) 700 1025
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (120 445) 730 1010
STAR TREK (PG-13) (1210 315) 625 930

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16
3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1150 1250 310 410) 630 730 950 1050
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1215 235 510) 740 1005 1205
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1205 230 455) 720 945 1200
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1200 220 445) 710 940
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (345 PM) 610 PM 840 PM
OC & DA: G-FORCE (PG) (120 PM)
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (215 515) 820 1120
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 145 245 420 520) 650 750 925 1025 1150
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1140 130 330 500) 700 830 1030
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 850 PM 1110 PM
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (1225 340) 705 1015
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (110 PM 350 PM) 620 PM
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1135 305) 645 1015
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (115 400) 640 935
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 255 530) 800 1035

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

KINGSTOWNE STADIUM 16
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center 703-822-4956

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1245 400) 730 1040
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1235 315 530) 800 1025
RW & DA: FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 245) 615 925
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1155 210 425) 700 910
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1115 130 345) 610 840
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (1110 155 440) 745 1030
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 1200 135 225 405 515) 630 755 855 1015
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1215 230 445) 705 920
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1105 1150 1255 220 310 410) 620 725 935 1040
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 900 PM
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D 625 PM 940 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (1125 145 415) 640
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1220 335) 650 1005
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1135 205 435) 715 950
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1210 240 505) 735 1000

COUNTRYSIDE STADIUM 20
45980 Regal Plaza 800-FANDANGO 394#

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1220 150 340 510) 700 840 1020
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (210 440) 720 955
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1210 235 455) 725 945
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1200 230 500) 730 1000
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1250 320 400 550) 635 820 910
OC & DA: G-FORCE (PG) (130 PM)
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 140 300 410 530) 650 800 920 1030
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (115 415) 710 1010
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1240 145 310 420 520) 640 740 900 1010
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R) - ID REQ'D (250 PM) 610 PM 930 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1205 240 515) 750 1025
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (110 350) 645 925
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (220 PM) 625 PM 950 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (100 335) 615 850
MY SISTER'S KEEPER (PG-13) (1245 330) 620 905
UP (PG) (120 PM 430 PM) 705 PM
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 940 PM

FOX STADIUM 16
22875 Crawford Plz, Asburn, VA 703-957-1035

FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1250 150 400 500) 710 810 1015
THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1240 300 540) 750 1005
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1200 220 440) 730 945
RW & DA: THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 130 350) 620 840
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1110 120 340) 610 820
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (110 420) 715 1000
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 250 515) 740 1030
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1220 240 510) 720 940
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1115 1210 230 330) 600 700 920 1020
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 745 PM 955 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (100 320) 615 830
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1150 310) 630 950
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1105 140 410) 640 930
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D (1140 210 530) 800 1025
UP (PG) (1130 AM 200 PM 430 PM)

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10
4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 230 455) 745 1015
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 1250 210 330 450) 640 730 910 1000
500 DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13) (1150 100 220 340 445) 650 750 920 1010
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1140 1240 140 300 400 500) 620 700 740 820 940 1020
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1120 200 440) 720 950
UP (PG) (1110 AM 150 PM 430 PM)

Free Family Film Festival Tue & Wed 10AM

MANASSAS STADIUM 14
11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

THE COLLECTOR (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 245 545) 800 1020
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG) (1045 130 345) 600 845
FUNNY PEOPLE (R) - ID REQ'D (1145 1245 300 400) 630 715 945 1030
G-FORCE (PG) ★ (1130 200 415) 700
THE ORPHAN (R) - ID REQ'D (210 500) 750 1040
THE UGLY TRUTH (R) - ID REQ'D (1100 1200 145 230 445 530) 730 815 1000 1045
G-FORCE 3D - EVENT PRICING (PG) ★ (1030 100 315) 615 830
HARRY POTTER: HALF BLOOD PRINCE (PG) (1000 115 330 430) 645 745 1015
BRUNO (R) - ID REQ'D 940 PM
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG) (110 410) 640 900
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALLEN (PG-13) (1015 215) 620 950
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13) (1230 PM 350 PM) 710 PM
HANGOVER (R) - ID REQ'D 915 PM
UP (PG) (1215 PM)

Times For 07/31 Bargain Matinees In ( ) OC= Open Captioned RW=RWC Available DA= Descriptive Audio Available DP= Digital Projection * Pass/Discount Ticket Restrictions Apply © 2009 www.REGmovies.com

television lookout

Double the Ditziness

'Legally Blondes' stars twins as Elle Woods' superficial cousins

TEENS | Casting Becky and Milly Rosso ("The Suite Life of Zack & Cody") as twins, the spin-off film "Legally Blondes" (8 p.m., ABC Family, Sun.) offers viewers twice as much to like — or hate.

The Rossos play Izzy and Annie Woods, the British teenage cousins of Elle Woods, the Reese Witherspoon character of film fame. The Woods sisters and their widower dad transplant themselves from rainy England to radiant Los Angeles, where they immediately confront the harsh pecking order of a status-obsessed prep school.

While the perky sisters become targets of a cruel headmistress (the always-funny Lisa Banes) and Tiffany (Brittany Curran), the school's reigning snob, they are hardly sympathetic. Within seconds of the opening credits, both are squealing with delight over their overwhelming desire to shop for designer labels and their savvy ability to hoodwink sales clerks into giving them discounts they don't deserve.

"Legally Blondes" is hardly the first, nor the only, show aimed at young women that celebrates mindless materialism with a near-pornographic zeal. It merely continues an insidious trend. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ABC FAMILY

COMING TO AMERICA: The British Woods twins are brand-new to Los Angeles.

weekend lineup

ADULT PROGRAMMING
The History Channel launches **LOCK N' LOAD WITH R. LEE ERMEY** (9 p.m., Fri.), which introduces viewers to guns, cannons and lethal weaponry.

FUNNY FRIDAY NIGHT
Conan O'Brien hosts Adam Richman, and Ben Harper and Relentless7 on **THE TONIGHT SHOW** (11:35 p.m., NBC).

SOMETHING IN COMMON
George encounters another werewolf on **BEING HUMAN** (9 p.m., BBC America, Sat.).

BOOM! POW!
ASSAULT IN THE RING (10 p.m., HBO, Sat.) revisits a brutal 1983 junior-middleweight fight between young up-and-comer "Irish" Billy Collins Jr. and fading brawler Luis Resto.

SLOPPY WORK
The Black Knight leaves a bloody trail on **MERLIN** (8 p.m., NBC, Sun.).

BEST WEEK EVER
Shark Week kicks off with **BLOOD IN THE WATER** (9 p.m., Discovery, Sun.), a two-hour documentary look at the true story that inspired "Jaws."

BOLDLY GO THERE
The new series **DEFYING GRAVITY** (9 p.m., ABC, Sun..) stars Ron Livingston as an astronaut haunted by a botched mission to Mars. Now he's an adviser to Antares, a mission to Venus.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED
A client demands a do-over on **HUNG** (10 p.m., HBO, Sun.). KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

Catch the beginning of Shark Week on Sunday night with "Blood in the Water."

CHARACTER Danger as Fiction FX says a new drama series called "Lawman" will debut next spring and is based on the character Raylan Givens created by veteran Detroit-area crime novelist Elmore Leonard. The cable network said this week it has placed a 13-episode order for "Lawman." The show stars Timothy Olyphant in the role of Givens, who was featured in Leonard's short story "Fire in the Hole." (AP)

express movie showtimes

MARYLAND

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRES at Beltway Plaza
www.Academy8theaters.com
Beltway Exit 23, W. on Greenbelt Rd.
301-220-1155
(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket
Friday-Thursday: Shows starting between 12 noon- 5 pm: Adults $6.50, Child $6.00
Saturday: ALL SHOWS STARTING BEFORE 12 NOON ARE $5.00

LOWEST PRICES IN THE METRO AREA!
NEW STADIUM SEATING/FREE PARKING

FUNNY PEOPLE (R)
(!) 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:45
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)
(!) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 9:50
THE COLLECTOR (R)
(!) 11:00, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10
G-FORCE (PG)
(!) 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:15, 7:25, 9:50
THE ORPHAN (R)
(!) 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10
THE UGLY TRUTH (R)
(!) 11:00, 1:00, 3:05, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
(!) 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:45
ICE AGE: DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS (PG)
11:00, 1:00, 3:00
TRANSFORMERS: REVENGE OF THE FALL (PG-13)
5:45, 9:30

LANDMARK'S
BETHESDA ROW
7235 Woodmont Ave • (301) 652-8754
www. landmarktheatres.com
To Purchase Tickets By Phone
(877) 789-6684
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6PM
MOON (R)
12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:05
500 DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13)
12:05, 1:05, 2:30, 4:05, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 8:45, 9:45
THE HURT LOCKER (R)
12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00
CHERI (R)
12:30, 4:55, 9:30
WHATEVER WORKS (PG-13)
2:45, 7:20
IN THE LOOP (NR)
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
SERAPHINE (NR)
1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55

P&G WESTFIELD MONTGOMERY
7101 Democracy Blvd. Beth 301-767-9555
Visit us at: pandgtheatres.com
BARGAIN MATINEES BEFORE 6 PM!
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)
1:05, 3:05, 5:05, 7:15, 9:15
G-FORCE (PG)
1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
1:00, 4:00, 7:15

MARLOW 6 THEATRES
Temple Hills, Md. 301-316-1031
ALL SHOWS AT $5 EVERYDAY TUESDAY!
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)
12:00, 1:50, 3:40, 5:40, 7:30, 9:20
THE COLLECTOR (R)
12:45, 2:40, 4:35, 6:30, 8:25, 10:15
THE ORPHAN (R)
12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:25
G-FORCE (PG)
11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
HARRY POTTER (PG)
11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:40
ICE AGE 3 (PG) 12:15, 2:15, 4:20
TRANSFORMERS 2 (PG-13) 6:20, 9:15

P&G OLD GREENBELT
301-474-9744 40 ft. Screen
At intersection of Crescent & Southway
All shows before 6:00pm are $6.00
Visit us at: pandgtheatres.com
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
5:00, 7:30, 9:40
Starts Fri: JULIE & JULIA (PG-13)

VIRGINIA

CINEMA ARTS THEATRE
9650 Main St., Fairfax 703-978-6991
www.cinemaartstheatre.com
(500) DAYS OF SUMMER (PG-13)
10:00, 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 8:00, 10:00
IN THE LOOP (NR)
9:50, 12:05, 2:30, 5:00, 7:50, 9:50
THE HURT LOCKER (R)
10:05, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30,10:05
THE UGLY TRUTH (R)
10:10, 12:10, 2:40, 4:50, 7:40, 9:40
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
9:55, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00,9:55
YOOHOO MRS. GOLDBERG (NR)
10:15, 12:15, 2:15, 4:40,7:20, 9:20

PHOENIX THEATRES WORLDGATE 9
Exit 10, Dulles Access Toll Road
Centreville Rd., Herndon 703-318-9290
Bargain Matinees Daily before 6
Advance Ticketing Available at
www.PhoenixTheatres.com
Bargain Tuesday - $5 admission!
FUNNY PEOPLE (R)
11:40, 3:00, 6:30, 9:55
ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)
11:50, 2:10, 4:55, 7:10, 9:25
MAGADHEERA (NR)
4:30, 6:15, 8:00, 9:45, 11:30
G-FORCE 3D (PG)
3D PRESENTATION
11:35, 2:00, 4:45, 6:50, 8:50, 10:50
THE UGLY TRUTH (R)
12:00, 2:20, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35
THE ORPHAN (R)
12:05, 4:15, 7:00, 10:05
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
11:25, 3:10, 6:40, 10:15
ICE AGE 3 (PG)
3D PRESENTATION
12:15, 2:30, 5:15, 7:30
THE PROPOSAL (PG-13)
DIGITAL PRESENTATION
10:25

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THE UGLY TRUTH (R)
6:00, 8:00, 10:00
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
4:30, 7:15, 10:00

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THE HURT LOCKER (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
IN THE LOOP (NR)
12:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:45, 5:30, 7:15, 8:15, 9:45, 10:45
BURMA VJ (NR)
1:35, 3:35, 5:35, 7:35, 9:35
FLESH GORDON (X)
12:00 AM
HUMPDAY (R)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40, 11:45
SHRINK (R)
2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 12:00
FOOD, INC. (PG)
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:05
AWAY WE GO (R)
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:25
BLOOD: THE LAST VAMPIRE (R)
11:30 PM

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***FUNNY PEOPLE (R)**
1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:00
***THE COLLECTOR (R)**
12:00, 2:10, 4:30, 7:35, 9:45
***ALIENS IN THE ATTIC (PG)**
11:40, 2:05, 4:20, 7:20, 9:30
***THE ORPHAN (R)**
11:30, 2:15, 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
***G-FORCE (PG)**
12:10, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:15
***THE UGLY TRUTH (R)**
11:55, 2:20, 4:35, 7:40, 10:10
HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (PG)
11:15, 2:30, 5:45, 9:00
ICE AGE 3 (PG)
11:45, 2:00, 4:15
PUBLIC ENEMIES (R)
7:05, 9:55
TRANSFORMERS 2 (PG-13)
2:00, 7:15
THE HANGOVER (R)
11:35, 5:00, 10:20

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Poll Center

DO YOU THINK BING CAN COMPETE WITH GOOGLE AS THE TOP SEARCH ENGINE?

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

NO	73%
YES	27%

"Google wasn't the first search engine on the market, and it certainly won't be the last. Someday soon a new product will emerge with superior technology to knock it from its perch."

COMMENTER DIOGENES

"I just Googled the word 'Bing' — what does that tell you?"

COMMENTER NICOLE

"Surely [Bing] can compete. The Google algorithm is well known by the computer science community. The only other thing Microsoft needs is resources, of which it has plenty."

COMMENTER ADAM E

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Blog LOG

"I DON'T THINK it will matter if it's staged. It's a ratings juggernaut, and people are going to watch it, regardless."

GIRLOFWORDS.COM WAS MARGINALLY DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR THAT A FORMER "AMERICAN IDOL" CONTESTANT SAYS THE FIRST ROUND OF COMPETITION IS COMPLETELY RIGGED.

BILL O'LEARY/TWP

"I KNOW THAT joining the Foreign Service is the best way to thank the country that gave me so many opportunities and privileges. I know that this is an exciting time to work as a diplomat. But something in me still hesitates."

TICKLETHEPEAR.LIVEJOURNAL.COM CONSIDERS HERSELF "THE RELUCTANT DIPLOMAT."

"I don't understand how the D.C. government gets away with the excuse of low water pressure over and over again when it comes to fighting fires."

BUDDHASWIIWHISKERS.BLOGSPOT.COM WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE GOVERNMENT WORKING MORE CLOSELY WITH THE D.C. WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY TO ENSURE THAT HYDRANTS ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY ALL THE TIME.

"I spend a lot of time criticizing [Michelle] Rhee, but I think the idea of theme schools is a great idea. A school's theme attracts passionate, involved, enthusiastic teachers."

SCOTTAHB.WORDPRESS.COM, A TEACHER, IS IMPRESSED WITH THE D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHANCELLOR'S PLAN TO LAUNCH SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS IN SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY AND ARTS/LANGUAGES IN 13 SCHOOLS.

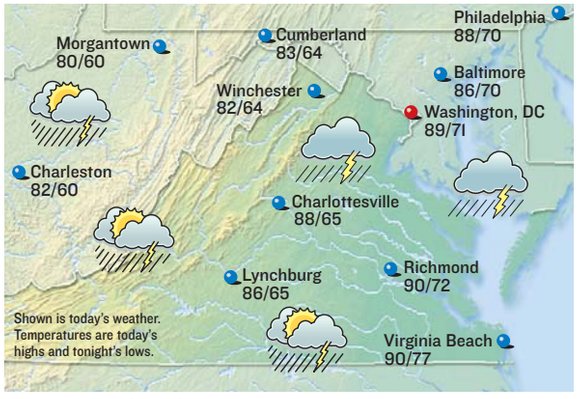
"I AM RATHER AMUSED at some of the items he selects for me. The two highlights: a bra that hasn't fit me in over year and a dress I wear to church."

DCFULLEST.LIVEJOURNAL.COM IS GLAD HER HUSBAND IS BRINGING HER CLOTHES WHILE SHE'S IN THE HOSPITAL BUT THINKS HIS SELECTIONS ARE A BIT OFF.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Showers/t-storms	A thunderstorm	A thunderstorm	Clouds and sun	A t-storm possible	Partly sunny
89°	71°	90° / 73°	90° / 74°	88° / 74°	90° / 73°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2009

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	86°
Low	72°
Normal high	88°
Normal low	70°
Average humidity	58%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.05"
Month to date	0.94"
Normal month to date	3.55"
Year to date	24.07"
Last year to date	32.32"
Normal year to date	22.71"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

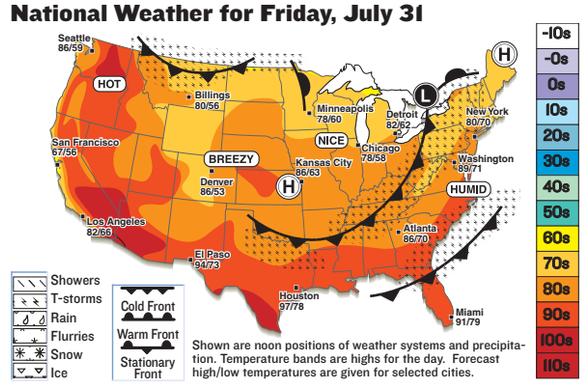
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, a thunderstorm. High 89. Wind west 6-12 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, a thunderstorm. Low 71. Wind south 4-8 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	6:08 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:20 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:45 p.m.
Moonset today	1:09 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Aug 5	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27

National Weather for Friday, July 31



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	86/70/t	87/70/t
Boston	79/67/t	84/66/s
Chicago	78/58/s	83/61/t
Dallas	88/75/t	98/78/pc
Denver	86/53/pc	85/56/pc
Honolulu	90/77/s	89/76/s
Los Angeles	82/66/pc	84/66/pc
Miami	91/79/t	89/79/t
New York City	80/70/t	88/72/pc
Orlando	93/75/t	93/75/t
Seattle	86/59/s	85/60/pc

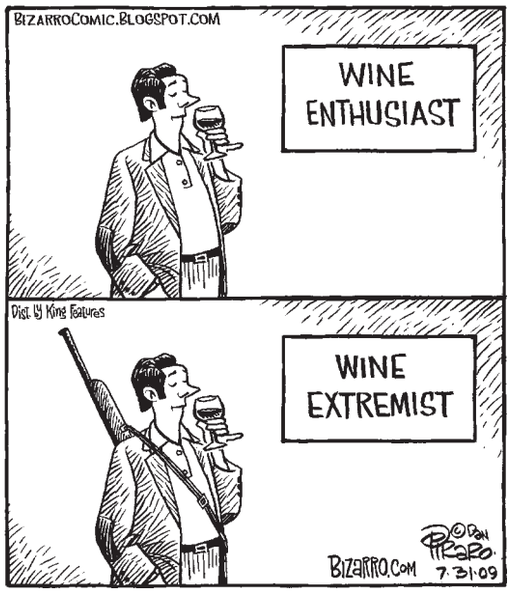
World Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Amsterdam	70/55/pc	74/59/pc
Athens	91/77/s	93/75/s
Berlin	73/56/s	79/63/pc
Buenos Aires	57/43/pc	55/45/c
Calgary	76/52/s	74/53/s
Dublin	63/52/r	64/50/pc
Geneva	77/54/pc	86/63/s
Moscow	79/57/pc	73/54/sh
Rome	90/66/s	90/63/s
Sydney	66/41/pc	67/41/s
Tokyo	82/73/c	84/75/sh

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

comics lookout

Bizarro | *Dan Piraro*

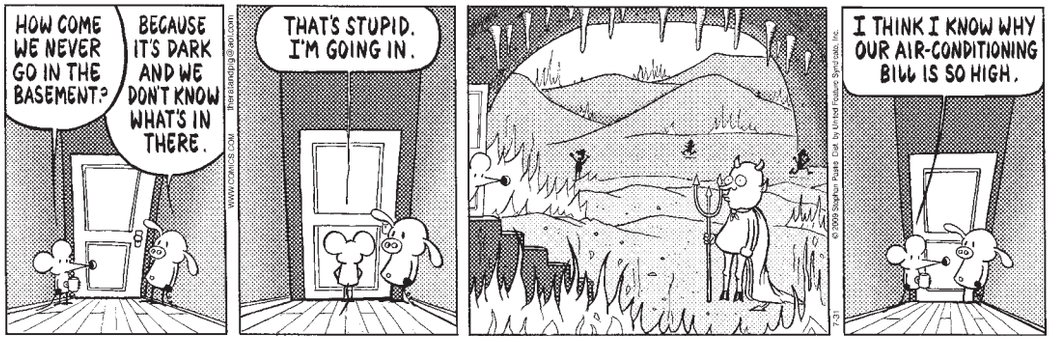


Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*

"It's simple, small and cheap. If she likes you, she'll probably like it."

Pooch Cafe | *Paul Gilligan*

Pearls Before Swine | *Stephan Pastis*



The Duplex | *Glenn McCoy*

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You'll be tempted to try many things, and many will be very satisfying. A few, however, are certainly not for you, and you'll know which ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Recent mood swings may be leveling out at this time, and you can begin to make more rational decisions as a result. Avoid overreacting.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) What is inevitable for one person is not necessarily inevitable for the next — and vice versa. Influences on you will be unique.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Someone may be demanding something of you that cannot be given — either at all or in good conscience. State your case clearly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be tempted to keep things very much to yourself, but the fact is that one or two people in the know can be of great help.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The barriers you face needn't keep you from charging ahead — but be willing to bring all your skills to bear.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may feel as though you're not getting the most bang for the buck. Indeed, the payoff is likely much less than expected.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) When facing a complex problem, the simplest solution is likely that which will serve you best in the long run. Don't be fooled.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Someone younger and more inexperienced than you is likely to offer a few lessons that will prove valuable almost immediately.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can learn from almost anyone at this time, so keep your eyes and ears — and mind — open. What comes your way may surprise you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can come up with a viable solution to a difficult financial problem, provided you examine it from all possible angles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) That which you most want is very near at this time. Don't assume that you're entitled, however; be willing to work for it.

Today in History

1777 Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, is made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

1969 The American space probe Mariner 6 flies by Mars, sending back images of it.

1972 Democratic vice presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton withdraws from the ticket with George McGovern after disclosures Eagleton had once undergone psychiatric treatment.

1999 Chicago authorities say as many as 46 more residents have died as a result of a relentless heat wave that has enveloped much of the nation.

2004 The Vatican issues a document denouncing feminism for trying to blur differences between men and women, and threatening the institution of families based on a mother and a father.

AP

The body of a Chicago heat wave victim is put in a semitrailer July 31, 1999.

2008 Scientists report the confirmation of the presence of frozen water in Mars' soil.

Correction:

Thursday's Weekend Pass misidentified photos of the W Hotel. The correct credit is renderings by Dianna Wong for the W Washington D.C.

PostPoints DAILY CODE MP

lookout people

NATHAN DENETTE/AP

Legions of teens really don't care as long as Robert Pattinson's still in it.

HEADLINES

[Insert Pun on Bite or Suck Here]

Bryce Dallas Howard is taking over as vampire Victoria in the third "Twilight" movie, and the actress who played the part in the first two films says she was "stunned" and "hurt deeply" by the switch. **RACHELLE LEFEVRE** says she was unaware that Summit Entertainment, citing scheduling issues, had chosen someone else. (AP)

MYSTERY MOM

Oops — He Did It Again

JUDE LAW will be a father for the fourth time. The identity of the mother has not been revealed. Publicist Sara Keene says that "following a relationship last year, Jude Law has been advised by the birth mother that he is to be the father of a child due in the autumn." (AP)

DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY IMAGES

REAL ESTATE

Something Prickly Doesn't This Way Come

KATE GOSSELIN is not moving to Rockville, Md., according to People.com. Rumors flew yesterday that the mom had purchased a two-bedroom condo in Rockville Town Square. Gosselin will reportedly live close to her kids in Pennsylvania. (EXPRESS)

KIDS

'Hi, I'm a Random Person You Don't Know. Love Me'

A child psychologist has never been needed more.

Katherine Jackson will raise Michael Jackson's children under an agreement with his ex-wife, who will have visitation rights under the supervision of a child psychologist, attorneys said Thursday. The agreement calls for Katherine Jackson to remain guardian of the singer's three children in accordance with wishes spelled out in his 2002 will. No money is changing hands as a result of the agreement, the statement said. **DEBORAH ROWE**, the biological mother of the two oldest children who has been largely absent from their lives, gets visitation rights. (AP)

BOREDOM

Reading the Phone Book Was Just Too Clichéd

How does **MATT DAMON** make reciting the Declaration of Independence exciting? "You just read it," Damon says. "Seriously. It is an incredible document. I think people either forget about it or have been taught it too early in their lives. It's a document worth reading and rereading every single year." The actor reads the declaration in "The People Speak," an upcoming History Channel movie. (AP)

expressnightout

Find the latest celebrity news and photo evidence of stars' sordid lives at WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM.

ROBIN LAYTON/AP

Meanwhile, SJP and MB don't care.

CAREERS

Arrested Officers Have Job Offers From OK! Magazine

Two St. Clairsville, Ohio, police chiefs suspected of snooping for tabloid fodder at the home of the surrogate mother for **SARAH JESSICA PARKER** and **MATTHEW BRODERICK** have been arrested. A special prosecutor has been looking into whether the chiefs illegally entered the woman's home in May, but it is unclear whether the police chiefs' arrests relate to that investigation. (AP)

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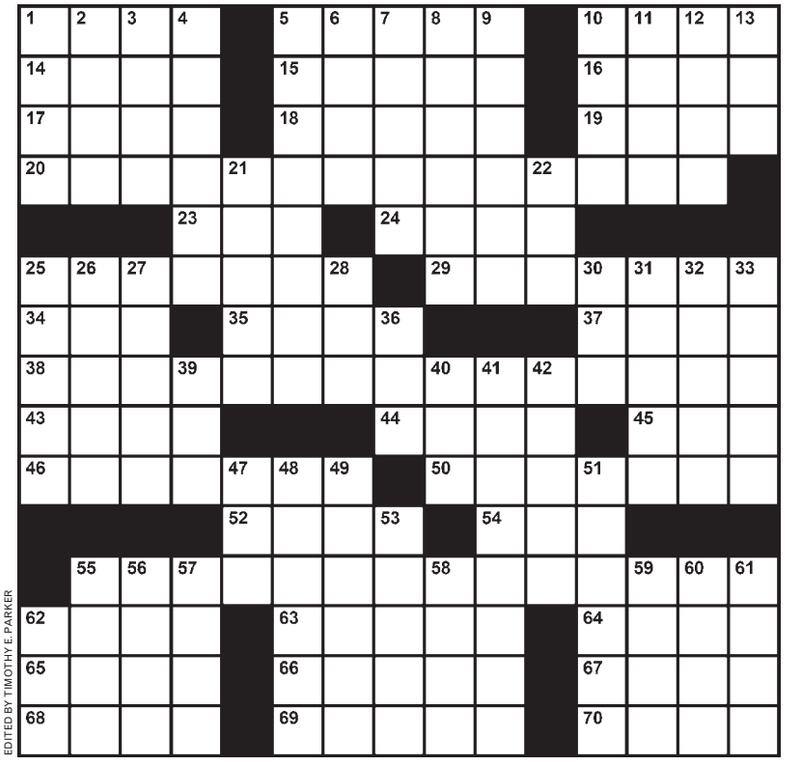
ACROSS

1 Retreat area
5 Cronies
10 Any Buffalo Bills Super Bowl result
14 Met solo
15 Lustrous fabric
16 Modern pentathlete's weapon
17 " ___ and not heard"
18 Find its way into the conversation
19 Place between mountains
20 What crooked bank tellers have?
23 Musical discernment
24 Dingle Bay locale
25 Bridge bid, perhaps
29 Forgoes
34 Tokyo of shoguns' era
35 Stand at a banquet
37 Roman 1052
38 Wool gatherer's state
43 "Golden Girls" character
44 In the manner of a slacker
45 God, in Latin
46 Loosen, as a cap
50 Goes downhill
52 They fawn over fawns
54 "Get comfy"
55 1957 Elia Kazan film (with "A")
62 Cotton capsule
63 Fishing gizmos
64 Word in a Grimm ending?
65 White-centered snack
66 Answering machine button
67 "___ Smile" (Hall & Oates)
68 Yank crabgrass
69 Coup follower
70 Offed, in the Bible

DOWN

1 Alternative to plastic
2 Type of rug or code
3 Way of carrying oneself
4 Play to the crowd
5 Board member
6 It may be used before an accident
7 Join in marriage
8 Five iron
9 Elvis' expressions
10 ___ Strauss & Co. (jeans company)
11 Aussie mine find
12 Go like hotcakes
13 "Capisce?"
21 King Fahd, e.g.
22 Private dick
25 Indira Gandhi's father
26 "___ a Grecian Urn" (Keats)
27 "Cheers!" e.g.
28 "The ___ and the Pendulum"
30 Coverage provider, briefly
31 Avoid artfully
32 Expand, as a highway
33 Mexican assents
36 "___ Jing" (classic of the Confucian canon)
39 Mountain ___ (soft drink)
40 Certain AFB
41 Not far apart, as eyes
42 Song part
47 Attachment for rings or roads
48 Dirtied
49 Professor's perk
51 Accent
53 Fender guitar model, briefly
55 "Ball alert!"
56 Away from the wind, in sailing
57 Chunk of dirt
58 "For ___ Jolly Good Fellow"
59 White House office shape
60 "If I ___ you "
61 Challenge Matt Dillon
62 Arrow launcher



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

Yesterday's Solution

F	E	A	R		D	O	S	E		F	L	U	M	E
A	X	L	E		E	B	O	N		L	E	N	I	N
C	A	B	I	N	B	O	Y	S		A	V	I	S	O
E	M	A	N	A	T	E	S			M	E	T	E	S
				V	I	S			A	B	B	E		
M	O	D	E	L		S	A	D	I	E		P	E	T
A	V	O	N		A	N	G	O	R	A		U	G	H
C	O	T	T	A	G	E	I	N	D	U	S	T	R	Y
H	I	E		T	H	E	S	I	S		P	O	E	M
O	D	D		T	A	R	T	S		D	A	N	T	E
			M	I	S	S			R	O	C			
A	F	O	O	T			S	P	I	R	I	T	E	D
B	A	Y	O	U		V	I	L	L	A	N	O	V	A
E	M	E	N	D		A	L	O	E		G	R	I	N
T	E	R	S	E		T	O	P	S		S	I	L	K

SAMURAI SUDOKU | HARD

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

			3			5	6						2	3			7			
	6	9				7	1						8	6				3	4	
	4		1	6				9				7				4	8		5	
6		2				4								4				6		2
		3			5										6			8		
				3	6		9	7				8	6		2	3				
5	3		8						3		5						9		3	4
8	9				2			5				9			4				6	8
		4			3		7			2			4		8			9		
						7				1				6						
								9	5		3	1								
						8				9				4						
		5			1		8			3			5		1			6		
2	6				8			4				7			4				1	9
8	9		2						4		9						9		4	5
				1	7		4	3				5	7		8	3				
		9			4										7			8		
1		4				6								4				1		7
	2		4	8				1				3				8	6		9	
	4	3				8	5						2	8				4	6	
			5			4	6						9	7			4			

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Last Week's Solution

5	6	7	1	8	9	3	2	4
2	3	9	4	6	7	5	8	1
1	4	8	2	3	5	6	9	7
6	8	3	9	5	1	7	4	2
7	9	2	6	4	8	1	5	3
4	5	1	3	7	2	8	6	9
8	2	4	7	1	6	9	3	5
9	7	5	8	2	3	4	1	6
3	1	6	5	9	4	2	7	8

3	8	4	2	5	1	6	7	9
5	1	6	7	8	9	2	3	4
7	9	2	3	4	6	5	8	1
4	2	1	6	3	7	9	5	8
8	5	3	9	1	4	7	6	2
9	6	7	8	2	5	4	1	3
2	3	5	4	6	8	1	9	7
1	4	9	5	7	3	8	2	6

5	6	7	2	3	9	1	8	4
2	8	9	4	1	6	3	5	7
1	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	2
6	1	5	7	4	2	9	3	8
8	7	2	3	9	1	4	6	5
4	9	3	6	8	5	2	7	1
3	2	6	8	5	4	7	1	9
7	5	1	9	2	3	8	4	6
9	4	8	1	6	7	5	2	3

3	8	4	2	5	1	6	7	9
5	1	6	7	8	9	2	3	4
7	9	2	3	4	6	5	8	1
4	2	1	6	3	7	9	5	8
8	5	3	9	1	4	7	6	2
9	6	7	8	2	5	4	1	3
2	3	4	5	6	8	1	9	7
1	4	9	7	3	8	2	5	6
5	7	8	6	9	2	5	1	7

5	6	7	2	3	9	1	8	4
2	8	9	4	1	6	3	5	7
1	3	4	5	7	8	6	9	2
6	1	5	7	4	2	9	3	8
8	7	2	3	9	1	4	6	5
4	9	3	6	8	5	2	7	1
3	2	6	8	5	4	7	1	9
7	5	1	9	2	3	8	4	6
9	4	8	1	6	7	5	2	3

4	2	5	1	6	7	9		
7	8	9	2	3	4			
3	4	6	5	8	1			
6	3	7	9	5	8			
9	1	4	7	6	2			
1	9	2	3	4	5			
2	5	4	1	6	7			
6	8	1	9	2	3			
1	7	3	8	2	6			

1	4	2	3	7	9	5	8	6
8	6	3	5	9	4	7	2	1
7	9	5	8	6	1	4	3	2
3	7	9	6	4	2	8	1	5
6	2	8	4	1	5	3	9	7
4	5	1	7	2	3	6	8	9
9	8	6	1	3	7	2	4	5
2	3	7	8	5	6	9	1	4
5	1	4	2	9	8	3	6	7

1	3	8	2	7	5	6	4	9
9	7	4	6	1	8	3	5	2
5	2	6	3	4	9	8	1	7
3	9	2	5	6	4	1	7	8
6	4	7	8	3	1	2	9	5
8	1	5	9	2	7	4	6	3

CLASSIC SUDOKU | HARD

	9		3		1			4
				8				
6		4		5		7		
		7			9			
		5		4		6		
			2			8		
		1		9		4		3
				2				
8			7		6		9	

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Yesterday's Solution

7	5	1	4	8	3	9	2	6
2	8	9	1	5	6	7	3	4
4	6	3	7	9	2	5	8	1
1	3	8	2	7	5	6	4	9
9	7	4	6	1	8	3	5	2
5	2	6	3	4	9	8	1	7
3	9	2	5	6	4	1	7	8
6	4	7	8	3	1	2	9	5
8	1	5	9	2	7	4	6	3

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

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Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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